CCP meanwhile can have negative financial impacts on higher education institutions helping to defray costs of the program, he said. The budget calls for institutions to rent textbooks - currently purchased by schools -at a cost of \$10 per credit hour.

Mr. Krane also raised concerns about permitting community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees and designating Western Governors University as a state institution. (See separate story)

Faculty members from Ohio State University, Ohio University, Cleveland State University and Wright State University backed up Mr. Krane's testimony, detailing how their institutions would be impacted by the budget.

All said they've already implemented new textbook policies with plans to reduce student costs and more are forthcoming.

Through a handful of initiatives, OSU has saved students an estimated \$3 million with a goal of that total reaching \$20 million by 2020, Associate Professor Bennet Givens said.

Faculty members are integral to textbook initiatives and there are many who've changed their habits and have gotten more creative about how to provide students information in recent years, added Cleveland State University Professor Nigamanth Sridhar.

He said faculty members have become more cognizant of the costs their textbook choices can have for students and they've started working more closely with publishers to get better rates.

Education groups on Tuesday also raised concerns about CCP. However, their take on the issue is in opposition to that of universities and community colleges. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2017)\

Representatives from the Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators told the subcommittee they're supportive of the textbook proposal, but are opposed to a prohibition on negotiating with universities to get them to charge less than \$40-per-credit hour.

"We favor a more market driven approach to local agreements," OASBO Associate Executive Director Barbara Shaner said. "Currently, school districts have little power to negotiate under CCP."

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee's website under March 21.

Western Governors University Seeks State Designation

Western Governors University on Tuesday made its second attempt at persuading lawmakers to accept an administration proposal to designate the online university as a state institution.

University President Scott Pulsipher largely repeated testimony he'd given to the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education last year when the administration first proposed adding WGU to the list of state institutions (HB474, 131st General Assembly).

Since that time, WGU has built a partnership with the state's community colleges to provide bachelor's degree pathways and tuition discounts for Ohio students, but four-year institutions remain leery of the competency-based university. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 11, 2016)

Mr. Pulsipher said WGU is unique to the country and provides a pathway for students to earn their bachelor's degrees in about three years at a cost of \$16,000 on average.

Getting students to degrees quicker and at a lower cost is a priority for the state and WGU can play a key role in getting Ohio to its attainment goal, he said.

"In order for the state to attain its goal of 65% of adults holding a credential or degree by 2025, it is important to offer Ohioans who are not able to access the traditional models of higher education an additional educational opportunity," Mr. Pulsipher said. "WGU's role is to be another option for those working adults seeking to improve their lives, and those of their families, through higher education."

"With over 1.2 million Ohio residents having attended some college but holding no degree or credential, there is significant need to offer opportunities for these individuals to access higher education," he added.

WGU currently enrolls 83,000 students from all 50 states, he said. It has awarded more than 79,000 bachelor's and master's degrees, including 2,024 in Ohio.

Subcommittee members asked Mr. Pulsipher multiple times why it's necessary for WGU to become a state-sponsored university and whether the designation will someday lead to state funding.

The president said the university has no interest in seeking operational dollars now or in the future and doesn't do so in other states where it is an affiliate. The university would prefer not to use state money because doing so would result in regulations and a loss of independence, he said.

Although WGU could continue to put resources toward recruiting Ohio students, an endorsement from the state would have the biggest impact on enrollment because it would show legitimacy, Mr. Pulsipher said. Estimates show the number of Ohio students enrolled in the online university could jump from 1,600 currently to 10,000 in the next five years with the state's backing.

"That endorsement lends credibility and reputation to the programs more than any money could," he said.

If the budget provision gets the governor's signature, Mr. Pulsipher said WGU would set up an affiliate office and name a state chancellor as well as ramp up its advertising. He assured lawmakers that any costs incurred in the process would fall on the university and not the state.

He also told the panel that WGU students are already eligible for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, which is provided at a higher rate afforded to private university students because the institution hasn't filed paperwork to receive state grant dollars.

Referring to the tension that has mounted between universities and WGU since the sponsorship proposal was introduced last year, Chairman Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) asked about WGU's relationships with brick and mortar institutions in other states.

Universities realize quickly that WGU is not a source of competition, Mr. Pulsipher said. That's because 97% of the university's students are not first-time higher education enrollees or attending full time.

"They recognize first and foremost that we are serving different populations," he said, adding that the average WGU student is 24 years old and working full time.

However, professors who also testified before the subcommittee on Tuesday raised more concerns about quality of an online-only education than they did about competition.

Ohio Faculty Council Chair Dan Krane said it's likely WGU will invest about \$10 million to ramp up the number of Ohio students in its programs.

If given the opportunity, state colleges and universities could implement a competency-based learning program with much less because they already have a recognizable and trusted brand, he said. They also likely have a better understanding of Ohio students and the state's economic needs.

"Why don't we invest that here within the state so we can deliver that quality product and maintain control of it both now and down the line?" Mr. Krane asked.

Nigamanth Sridhar, who is the president of the Faculty Senate at Cleveland State University, said his chief concern with WGU is the lack of direct, in-person access to professors.

Psychologists Protest Budget Plan To Consolidate State Board

A trio of psychologists on Tuesday urged a House panel to reject Gov. John Kasich's budget proposal to consolidate the Board of Psychology with other mental health boards.

The budget (HB 49) calls for the board - and the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board and the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board - to be consolidated into the State Behavioral Health and Social Work Board on Jan. 21, 2018.

But psychologists told the House Finance Subcommittee on State Government & Agency Review that would be a bad move.

The OBP currently regulates about 4,000 licensees according to the board's Redbook. The board would be allocated \$384,551 in Fiscal Year 2018, with \$0 in funding the following year due to the consolidation.

David Hayes, past president of the Ohio Psychological Association and the OPA's liaison to the Ohio Board of Psychology, said "significant problems" will arise if the OBP is eliminated and combined with other boards.

He said psychologists are trained and educated in a way different from those in any other behavioral health field. In addition to receiving more extensive training, he said that training includes areas — neuropsychological testing, for instance — that other fields don't touch

"An omnibus board would place the regulation, evaluation and investigation of one profession -- psychology -- under people who lack the appropriate training, background and experience to competently or fairly or ethically do so," Mr. Hayes said. "Psychologists and other behavioral health providers all practice behavioral health, but they do not do the same things. Omnibus boards ignore these essential differences."

Mr. Hayes said Kansas is the only state that currently lacks an independent psychology board.

University of Cincinnati Professor Paula Shear echoed those thoughts by emphasizing the distinctness of psychology training compared with that of other fields. She further argued that staffing reductions likely to follow the consolidation would delay licensure and affect recruitment.

"My primary concern about the proposed legislation is that it will greatly weaken protections for highly vulnerable populations, namely the children, adults and elders of the state of Ohio who require mental health services," she said. "In other words, passage of this bill would undermine the single most important function of a regulatory board; protection of the public."

Kathryn Shroder, a board member of the Ohio School Psychologists Association and a former member of the OBP, in written testimony questioned the administration's assertion the move will save money.

"The boards are self-sufficient," Ms. Shroder wrote. "License fees fully fund the cost of board operations. The boards operate efficiently through group purchasing and shared services. To my knowledge, no taxpayer dollars are saved by consolidating boards."

The move might even cost the state money, she suggested.

"I do know that consolidation would mean that significant additional resources would need to be allocated in order to replace the board members who now review laws and rules, conduct oral exams, and spend hours with investigators reviewing cases of alleged unprofessional conduct," she wrote.

Public Works Prepared To Handle Increased Funding For Local Transportation Projects, Director Says

The leader of the Ohio Public Works Commission said Tuesday that changes made to the two-year transportation budget allocating more money to local governments will not be a problem for his agency to handle.

Michael Miller told members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee that his agency will be able to handle the additional workload if the change remains in the transportation budget (HB 262).

The adjustment increases the share of Motor Fuel Tax receipts dedicated to local road and bridge projects through OPWC's Local Transportation Improvement Program by 0.25 cents in Fiscal Year 2018 and 0.50 cents in FY 19. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 20, 2017)

The increased allocation will result in an additional \$48 million for local road and bridge projects over the biennium.

"That's very manageable," Mr. Miller said.

"One of the reasons we did this is your organization is so highly regarded by our local government partners," Chairman Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said of the change.

Sen. LaRose also asked about the feasibility of lowering the percentage of the State Capital Improvement Program that is set aside for loans from 15% to 10%.

The County Engineers Association of Ohio said the move would free up an additional \$7.85 million for infrastructure projects across the state.

Mr. Miller said his agency would not oppose such a change.

"I don't see it having a huge impact on our program," he said. "We would be supportive or it."

The panel also received written testimony from Donna Prease on behalf of Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential. In her testimony, Ms. Prease asked members of the panel to make public transit funding a priority.

Ms. Prease said her and many others with physical disabilities rely on public transportation.

"People with disabilities enjoy being a part of their community. Going to work, shopping, visiting family and friends, and medical appointments happens with public transportation. When routes are eliminated or services hours are cut back, operators are laid off etc., due to lack of funding for public transportation, the general public and especially people with disabilities are hit very hard." she said.

"I cannot physically walk to work or carpool to work. The majority of people with disabilities cannot drive, or if we can, we cannot afford a car."

The executive transportation budget proposal allocated an additional \$10 million for public transit over each of the next two years, bringing the total to \$33 million annually.

The Senate panel on Monday sought to require the Department of Transportation to spend at least that much each of the next two years through the substitute bill that it adopted.

"They had increased that by about \$10 million in what they were proposing to do," Sen. LaRose said on Monday. "But, again, as with a lot of things in the budget, that was just ODOT telling us they intended to do it. It wasn't codified in the language. We said that sounds like a great idea, Ohio Department of Transportation. We love it so much we're going to actually put it in writing."

Bill Proposes Higher Vehicle Registration Fee In Exchange For Fuel Tax Cut

Ohio would fund highway projects through an increased vehicle registration fee and reduce reliance on motor vehicle fuel tax revenues under legislation introduced Tuesday by a Senate Republican lawmaker.

Under legislation (SB 113) introduced by Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.), the cost to register a motor vehicle in Ohio would increase to \$140 for passenger vehicles and registrants would receive an identification card to swipe at the gas pump that would exempt them from the 28-cent-per-gallon Motor Fuel Tax.

"We would have a stable revenue flow on which to budget and build roads in to the future," he said.

The \$140 figure was derived from taking the \$1.9 billion in MFT the state collects each year and dividing that by the number of registered vehicles in the state, Sen. Coley said.

Under the proposal, the cost to register a commercial vehicle would be higher than \$140.

"We're consuming fewer and fewer gallons of gas for every mile driven, and yet it's not getting any cheaper to build the roads," he said.

Sen. Coley said he chose not to propose the measure as an amendment to the transportation budget (HB 26, which originally contained a provision to allow the MFT to be levied on compressed natural gas. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 23, 2017).

However, he did not rule out introducing an amendment to the two-year transportation spending outline that would curtail the ability of the Office of Budget and Management director to transfer money without Controlling Board approval.

"There are a number of spots where it's just blanket authority for the OBM director to transfer funds," he said.

Sen. Coley said the need for the change regarding fund transfers arose a few years ago after the administration came to the Controlling Board seeking authority to spend \$11 million for the emergency purchase of salt. He said he later learned the administration used the emergency spending authority to purchase two King Air planes.

The planes they replaced, Sen. Coley said, were barely used in the previous year.

"I'm not happy with what happened. I'm sure everybody had the best intentions," he said.

If not placed in the transportation budget, Sen. Coley said the proposal could be amended into the main operating budget (HB 492).

Audit Finds More Than \$20,000 In Illegal Spending At Community Correctional Facility

A special audit of a southern Ohio correctional facility uncovered more than \$20,000 in fraudulent spending, the state auditor announced Tuesday.

The special audit conducted by State Auditor Dave Yost found employees of the STAR Community Justice Center in Scioto County illegally spent \$20,090 on liquor, hotels and a visit to a strip club. The audit also uncovered forged receipts and stolen property,

About half of the fraudulent spending occurred during conferences across the country.

"These employees used conferences as a cover for their self-indulgent vacations," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "While the amounts may not be the highest we've seen,

the egregious nature of what transpired is simply appalling - and at a correctional facility, no less."

JoEllen Smith, a spokeswoman for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, said the agency is reviewing the audit to determine the appropriate next steps.

The audit found that in September 2013, six employees of the facility spent \$154 on 44 beers in Columbus before flying to Reno, Nevada to attend a conference. The drinks were paid for with a STAR credit card.

Once in Reno, the employees spent \$797 on meals and lodging, but none of the six employees attended the conference in its entirety. In fact, several employees, including Executive Director Charles E. Philabaun III, traveled to Lake Tahoe during the event and another skipped an entire day to attend a poker tournament.

The audit also turned up improper charges for alcohol, taxis, travel for family members and excessive meal and lodging costs.

The credit card statements also revealed the expenditure of \$170 at a Columbus strip club. Former Deputy Director Josh Saunders, who was fired from his position in April 2015, admitted to making the transactions on the card following a Christmas party.

"This kind of irresponsible spending is the very reason why credit card policies exist," Mr. Yost said. "Allowable expenditures are determined by policy and state law - not the card holders."

Mr. Sanders was also found to have forged receipts and failed to return company equipment such as an iPad Mini, a laptop and accessories after his termination.

"Of all places, the fact that these improper expenditures occurred at a correctional facility is particularly alarming," Auditor Yost said. "The leaders of these facilities need to set a good example for inmates trying to get their lives back on track."

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar Thursday, April 13

State Audit Committee, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, March 29

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (\$1,000 host, \$500 Sponsor, \$350 Friend)

Thursday, April 27

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 E. State St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest: \$250, Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$1,000; Gold sponsor: \$1,500 to Friends of David Leland)

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, March 22

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

PHARMACY SALES (Rezabek, J., Koehler, K.) To prohibit sales of dextromethorphan without a prescription to persons under age 18. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

STEP THERAPY (<u>Johnson, T., Antonio, N.</u>) To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

EPINEPHRINE DISPENSING (Merrin, D.) To authorize an epinephrine autoinjector substitution when a prescription is filled or refilled, to authorize epinephrine to be dispensed without a prescription under a physician-established protocol, and to declare the act the "Epinephrine Accessibility Act." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 116, 9 a.m.

- All testimony on tax related provisions of the budget bill. The panel will convene at 9 am and then reconvene at 7 pm to accept additional public testimony
- WELL FUND (Cera, J., Hill, B.) To limit the amount of revenue that may be credited to the Oil and Gas Well Fund and to allocate funds in excess of that amount to local governments, fire departments, and a grant program to encourage compressed natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance: Transportation Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. McColley, R., 466-3760), Rm. 311, 9 a.m.

- Public testimony
 House Finance: Primary & Secondary Education Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 122, 9 a.m.
- Public testimony on the biennial budget
 Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing
 Rm., 9 a.m.
- TAX CREDIT (Skindell, M.) To remove the income restriction on the earned income tax credit and to make the credit refundable beginning in 2017. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Brown, E.) To provide a three-day sales tax

"holiday" each April during which sales of qualifying Energy Star products are
exempt from sales and use taxes. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 018, 10 a.m.

BWC BUDGET (<u>Brinkman, T.</u>) To make changes to the Workers'
Compensation Law, to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers'
Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute,

amendments & vote)
Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072),
North Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

FISCAL EMERGENCIES (<u>Terhar, L.</u>) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

PUBLIC NOTICES (<u>Hambley, S., Ryan, S.</u>) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (<u>Brown, E., Lehner, P.</u>) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (<u>Huffman, M.</u>) Application to the Congress of the United States for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States that is limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 62 DAY DESIGNATION (Yuko, K.) To designate July 8 as "Harrison Dillard Day." (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

CASINO EMPLOYEES (Seitz, B.) To specify that the criminal penalty related to casino operators and employees participating in casino gaming applies at their casino facility or an affiliated casino facility. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m., Webcast

BRIDGE PROGRAM (Hoagland, F.) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of

Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 26

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 10:30 a.m.

RECORDS EXEMPTION (<u>Hambley</u>, S., <u>Rezabek</u>, J.) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.) To eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

VOTER REGISTRATION (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law concerning challenges to voter registrations, the appointment of observers, and the procedures for processing absent voter's ballots and for casting absent voter's ballots in person. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

 Presentation from the Legislative Service Commission regarding Workforce Development

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m., Webcast

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-6344), Rm. 017, 1:30 p.m. or after session

Testimony from Department of Commerce and public testimony
 Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m., Webcast

House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Thompson, A., 644-8728), Rm. 018, 2:30 p.m.

- Public testimony on the biennial budget
 House Finance: Higher Education Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Perales, R., 644-6020),
 Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m. or after session
- Public testimony on the biennial budget
 House Finance: Health & Human Services Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Romanchuk, M., 466-5082), Rm. 313, 3 p.m. or after session
- Public budget testimony on Developmental Disabilities, insurance and healthcare, and Job and Family Services

Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m., Webcast

Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Kara Morgan, State Board of Education

SB 85 SCHOOL CHOICE (Huffman, M.) To eliminate the Educational Choice

Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to

create the Opportunity Scholarship Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SCHOOL ABSENCES (Williams, S., Lehner, P.) To require a public school

to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse. (1st Hearing-

Sponsor)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

HB 50 EBT CARDS (Schaffer, T.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit

transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 115 COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES (Gavarone, T., Wiggam, S.) To

establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law

enforcement notification. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fi., Columbus, 10 a.m. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Soft Drink Association Advocacy Day at the Statehouse Immunization Advocacy Network of Ohio 6th Annual Statehouse Day, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, Governor's Room A, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio and/or Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)

Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Colerain Township) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) & Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

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House Activity for Tuesday, March 21, 2017

HCR 7 BANKING LAWS (Sheehy, M., Ramos, D.) To urge the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking function that was in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HCR 8 MINER PROTECTION (Cera, J.) To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Miners Protection Act of 2017.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

INTRODUCED

- SCHOOL GRANTS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district. Am. 307.283 and 5739.026
- HB 135 DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.) To designate June 12th as "Superman Day." Am. 5.49
- ROAD NAMING (Arndt, S.) To designate a portion of State Route 61 in Erie County as the "SGT David Sexton Memorial Highway" and a portion of Benton-Carroll Road in Ottawa County as "SGT Glen Millinger Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.802 and 5534.803
- HB 137
 ☐ CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.) To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect. Am. 2151.421
- WAGE DISCRIMINATION (Smith, K., Boyd, J.) To require the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to establish a system for individuals to make anonymous complaints regarding employers discriminating in the payment of wages. Am. 4112.041

- PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (Perales, R., Keller, C.) To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation. Am. 149.43
- ROAD NAMING (Green, D.) To designate a portion of State Route 32 in
 Brown and Highland Counties as the "Army Specialist Danny Raymond King
 Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.78
- INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER (<u>Dever, J., Wiggam, S.</u>) To provide that causing or contributing to the death of another person as a result of the offender's sale, distribution, dispensation, or administration of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog is a violation of the offense of involuntary manslaughter and to make this offense a strict liability offense. Am. 2903.04, 2903.06, 2919.22, 2929.142, 4510.17, 4510.31, and 4511.181
- CONCEALED WEAPONS (Wiggam, S.) To eliminate the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped. Am. 2923.12, 2923.126, 2923.128, and 2923.16
- HB 143 ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.) To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for kilowatt-hour tax purposes. Am. 5727.80
- WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (Green, D., Rogers, J.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside. Am. 4511.01, 4511.213, and 4513.17
- CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (<u>Huffman, S., Sprague, R.</u>) To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency. Am. 4730.32, 4731.224, 4731.25, 4760.16, 4762.16, and 4774.16 and to enact sections 4731.251, 4731.252, 4731.253, and 4778.17

- HB 146 DEATH CERTIFICATES (Householder, L.) To allow a coroner to change the cause, manner, and mode of death in a filed death certificate only after a hearing in the court of common pleas. Am. 313.19 and 3705.22
- HB 147 HUMANE SOCIETIES (Hambley, S.) To make changes to humane society law and to make humane society agents subject to bribery law. Am. 109.73, 935.19, 935.20, 959.131, 1717.01, 1717.02, 1717.03, 1717.04, 1717.06, 1717.07, 1717.09, 1717.10, 2151.421, 2921.02, and 2931.18, to enact sections 1717.061, 1717.062, 1717.16, and 1717.17, and to repeal section 1717.14

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

- SB 23 DAY DESIGNATION (<u>Terhar, L.</u>) To designate January 31 as "Omphalocele Awareness Day."
- HB 12 OFFICIAL STATE STRUCTURE (Gonzales, A.) To designate the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state.
- DEED SOLICITATION (Rezabek, J.) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds.
- ROAD NAMING (Lipps, S.) To designate a portion of State Route 73 in Warren County as the "Officer Bill Johnson Memorial Highway."

REFERRED

Community & Family Advancement:

HB 126 KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.) To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program.

Criminal Justice:

HB 125 COURT JURISDICTIONS (Craig, H., Seitz, B.) To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish

requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor:	
<u>HB 127</u> 選	STEEL WELDING (<u>Perales, R., Dever, J.</u>) To establish in the Ohio Building Code requirements pertaining to structural steel welding and bridge welding.
<u>HB 128</u> 	BUILDING INSPECTIONS (Roegner, K.) To permit a general contractor or owner of specified buildings to enter into a contract with a third-party private inspector or a certified building department for building inspection and to make other changes relating to building inspections.
Energy & N	atural Resources:
HB 130 🕍	ROYALTY STATEMENTS (Cera, J.) To require the owner of an oil or gas well to provide a royalty statement to the holder of the royalty interest when the owner makes payment to the holder.
Financial In	stitutions, Housing & Urban Development:
<u>SB 29</u> ፭	BANKING LAW (Coley, B., Oelslager, S.) For the purpose of enacting a new banking law for the State of Ohio.
Governmer	nt Accountability & Oversight:
SB 10	PRIMARY ELECTIONS (<u>LaRose</u> , F.) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election.

HB 123

LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers.

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State & Local Government:

HB 122

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (<u>Hambley, S., Rogers, J.</u>) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

HB 129 📓

EDUCATION EXTERNSHIP (Smith, K., Kelly, B.) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

Ways & Means:

HB 124 😹

TAX LEVIES (<u>Brenner, A., Carfagna, R.)</u> To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Community and Family Advancement: Remove Representative Ashford; appoint Representative Barnes

Criminal Justice: Remove Representative Patmon; appoint Representative Celebrezze

Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor: Remove Representative Householder; appoint Representative Lipps

Federalism and Interstate Relations: Remove Representative Barnes; appoint
Representative Ashford

Government Accountability and Oversight: Remove Representative Reece; appoint
Representative Sweeney

State and Local Government: Remove Representative Householder; appoint Representative
Ryan

Transportation and Public Safety: Remove Representative Patmon; appoint Representative
Reece

Ways and Means: Remove Representative Barnes; appoint Representative Patmon

Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission: Rep. Craig

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

HB 104

CREDIT ACCOUNT DEBT (Schaffer, T.) To allow vendors to receive a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit accounts when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit account lender. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

"House Bill 104 will modernize the tax code to allow for overpaid sales tax to be returned to retailers," Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) said in sponsor testimony. The issue has arisen in recent years with the proliferation of retail credit cards that are contracted out to lending firms.

"When a purchase is made with one of these cards, retailers must advance the sales tax to the state for items bought by consumers with those cards, even if the customer defaults on the card and its debt. In this circumstance, retailers are not reimbursed for the sales tax they have remitted on behalf of the consumer," he said. "Therefore, the retailer is paying sales tax on a sale that is never officially completed due to consumer default on the credit card debt. The state retains these sales taxes and does not refund it to the retailer."

Rep. Schaffer said those circumstances cost Ohio retailers an estimated \$8 million a year.

"In all 50 states, including Ohio, the code allows for retailers who own their credit cards to apply for a refund on the sales tax in these circumstances. However, Ohio law has not yet

evolved to allow retailers to apply for a refund when their in-store cards are owned by a private label.," he said. "This is an inequity and it has created an unfair cash flow to the state at the expense of the retailer."

The sponsor said similar legislation has been enacted in Texas, California, Michigan, Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Illinois. The bill is supported by the Ohio Council of Retail.

Merchants, he said.

"This bill will create a more fair business environment for Ohio's retailers, which employ many thousands of Ohioans. One in four jobs in Ohio is supported by the retail industry," Rep. Schaffer said.

LOAN ACT (<u>Terhar, L.</u>) To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

"Senate Bill 24 will create the Consumer Installment Loan Act and will modernize consumer lending laws in Ohio," sponsor Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) said.

"It will distinguish for consumers, regulators, and industry participants which types of loans should be made under specific sections of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1321. In many respects, the CILA will duplicate the original Ohio Mortgage Lending Act in a new series of code sections, and will clearly indicate that CILA loans must have a minimum loan term of six months, be payable in equal monthly installments, have stricter limits on refinancing of loans, and not be secured by real estate."

The sponsor said the revisions "will more accurately reflect the business of traditional installment lending and create a new code section clearly dedicated to that industry segment, eliminating confusion for borrowers and lenders alike, and simplifying the job of the industry regulators."

The bill also contains provisions requested by the Division of Financial Institutions at the Department of Commerce, the sponsor said. They include: the modification of record retention requirements to reflect the ability to use electronic record keeping; a requirement that licensees comply with the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003; a requirement for licensees to notify the Superintendent of financial institutions via a written notice 60 days prior to a change of 50% or more in ownership; and penalties for violations. "Senate Bill 24 will provide clarity for borrowers, lenders, and state and federal regulators. It is a result of the current effort to modernize Ohio's statuses that cover all banking and lending in Ohio," Sen. Terhar said.

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Cleveland) asked the sponsor to respond to criticisms leveled by Policy Matters Ohio.

Sen. Terhar said the issue of third-party debt collectors, which some companies do not use, is regulated by the federal government. Regarding fee language in the bill, he said it would be the first time processing fees have increased for the industry in nine years. And on the matter of international banks "exploiting" Ohio consumers, Sen. Terhar said any banks operating in the state would have to follow Ohio laws.

Responding to a question from <u>Rep. Andy Brenner</u> (R-Powell), the sponsor said the fee schedule in the bill was developed with input from the industry and state regulators.

Ways & Means

SALES TAX (Merrin, D.) To exempt prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers from sales and use tax.

(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) said only 13 states impose a tax on prescription eyewear, which places Ohio at a competitive disadvantage. To rectify that, his bill would exempt prescription eyeglasses, frames and contacts from sales and use tax.

"By taxing eyeglasses, government makes eyeglasses more expensive," the sponsor testified. "Like with many necessities, most individuals ultimately get what they need, but will delay until they can afford it. Taxation provides another barrier that can contribute to delays with Ohioan's securing updated prescription eyewear; it's time to remove the barrier." He said the issue can especially impact children whose ability to learn is restricted without proper eyewear.

"House Bill 116 will make eyeglasses more affordable and leave more money in Ohioans' pockets," Rep. Merrin continued. "It brings uniformity to our tax code and makes Ohio's retailers more competitive. It is time to reform our tax code and not penalize Ohioans that must have prescription eyewear to live a fulfilling life."

Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) questioned whether the sponsor considered a minimum or maximum threshold for the tax exemption since customers have great freedom in how much they spend on frames.

Rep. Merrin said the idea was considered but that he wanted to keep the tax code as simple as possible and therefore did not include such limitations.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) asked why saline solution that is required to use contact lenses would continue to be taxed under the bill.

"We're trying to solve one problem at a time," Rep. Merrin replied.

PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (Merrin, D.) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Merrin said the bill would codify a pair of Ohio Supreme Court rulings pertaining to property valuation complaints - specifically *James Navratil Development Company v. Medina County Board of Revision* (2014) and *Groveport Madison Local Schools Board of Education v. Franklin County Board of Revision* (2013).

In those rulings, the court determined a property valuation complaint filed with a board of revision cannot be dismissed based on the misidentification of the property owner. Rep. Merrin said the previous status quo resulted in complaints being dismissed without adequate cause.

"It is important to note that an official complaint form has the complainant list the parcel number and property address," Rep. Merrin said. "This information allows the auditor and board of revision to easily identify the true owner of the property if in question. Also, the name of the owner is irrelevant when determining the value of a property."

He said he believes most boards of revision are complying with the court ruling. But with 88 different county boards handling thousands of complaints, he said, "it's impossible to know if they are all following the law, the Supreme Court's ruling, or are aware of the ruling."

SB 9

SALES TAX HOLIDAY (<u>Bacon, K.</u>) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants Director of Governmental Affairs Lora Miller voiced support for the bill and for making the holiday a permanent annual event. Several other proponents submitted written testimony backing the bill.

"From all accounts, Ohio's 2015 sales tax holiday was a tremendous success for consumers, retailers and the state of Ohio," Ms. Miller testified. "Many retailers reported sales increases across all lines, all departments, not just on tax-exempt items. Retailers that don't even sell items that were exempt from the tax reported a boost in business."

Ms. Miller cited data already derived from an in-progress study into the 2016 holiday being conducted by the University of Cincinnati that she said shows last year's event was a similar success and saved consumers about \$2.4 million. The final study is expected to be provided to the committee by next week.

"We would like to see this become permanent," she said of the holiday. "We would appreciate your favorable consideration should an amendment (to do that) come before you." Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) questioned whether other states would copy the holiday should it become permanent and therefore cost Ohio its advantage being the only state in its immediate vicinity to offer such a holiday.

Ms. Miller said several adjoining states have attempted but been unsuccessful at establishing a holiday. Adopting their own holidays upon seeing Ohio's success, she said, would be a possibility.

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) questioned why lawmakers, instead of instituting a holiday, took a broader approach of decreasing the sales tax. The executive budget proposal (HB 49), he noted, would increase the sales tax.

"We would certainly have no objection to a decrease in sales tax," Ms. Miller replied. "While we have no objection to that, that's obviously a policy decision for the General Assembly." Also signaling their support for the bill in written testimony were the Catholic Conference of Ohio, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, <u>U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson</u> (R-Marietta), JC Penney, Macy's, the Ohio Grocers Association, the Ohio Restaurant Association, and NFIB/Ohio. Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the <u>committee's website</u> under March 21. Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

PRECIOUS METALS (<u>Henne, M.</u>) To make changes to the licensing and records requirements, exemptions, penalties, and other provisions of the Precious Metal Dealers Law. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) told the committee the bill would increase protections for Ohioans who are victims of jewelry thieves. He said the thieves are increasingly selling stolen metals to precious metal dealers - who melt the products - rather than pawn shops. He said the measure increases reporting and monitoring requirements for metal dealers and takes steps - including obtaining a copy of an ID from sellers - to make sure items being sold are not stolen.

Among other things, he said dealers would have to take descriptions of an item they are buying and record serial numbers, if applicable. Further, he said a buyer would have to wait 15 days before selling an item. The 15-day window would not exist for coin purchases, he said.

but the bill is appropriate in this case.

He said precious metal dealers provide services that are similar to pawnbrokers, and should adhere to similar laws.

The sponsor said a person who has an item stolen and recovered from a precious metal dealer would be able to get those items returned without buying them back if they are willing to press charges against the thief. They would have to reimburse the dealer for the amount paid if they are unwilling to press charges.

Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) questioned whether the sponsor had considered requiring fingerprints of sellers, given the proliferation of fake identification cards.

Mr. Henne said that wasn't considered because that's not the process that pawn brokers follow

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) questioned whether other states have similar laws, and whether enacting the law would push thieves to sell stolen products elsewhere. Mr. Henne told Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) that a high percentage of home jewelry thefts are done by family members who are trying to support drug habits.

HB 57

DOMESTIC STEEL (<u>Boccieri</u>, <u>J.</u>, <u>Ramos</u>, <u>D.</u>) To require the use of domestic steel in construction, repair, or improvement projects involving certain buildings used by public schools, state institutions of higher education, and specified private colleges. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) said the measure would increase the use of higher quality U.S. steel, noting that the bill came to the forefront when it was determined that problematic water fountains in the Sebring schools had been produced in China.

He said foreign products are often illegally subsidized by governments, creating more affordable products but which fail to meet the standards that should be used in Ohio schools. When it comes to children's safety, he said Ohio should demand higher-quality American steel.

Beyond safety benefits, he said increased use of domestic steel would provide an economic boost for the state in nation.

Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) said his community has seen a significant loss of jobs in recent years. He said the bill would enhance child safety and increase fairness for Ohio steelworkers.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan questioned whether the bill covers all state buildings.

Mr. Boccieri said it covers educational structures, and noted that the timing is good because the state is likely to start renovations on school buildings in the near future.

Rep. Landis questioned the bill's definition of domestic-steel, asking if it considers foreign-made slabs that are processed in the U.S. as domestic product.

Mr. Boccieri said the bill follows NAFTA's provisions that do consider foreign supply that has an American finishing component as American.

Mr. Landis noted that there have been some failures of American-finished products because of problems at a foreign melt source.

Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) questioned how detailed a review would be, and whether it will determine if projects include American-made steel screws.

Rep. Boccieri said it would be made clear to builders that they are to use domestic-produced steel.

Rep. Ramos said the bill does not include a preference for Ohio-made steel due to the Interstate Commerce Clause.

Criminal Justice

HB 109

PRISON TERMS (<u>Patmon, B.</u>) To create specifications that impose an additional prison term on a felony offender who commits the offense against a disabled person or elderly person and a period of Department of Youth Services commitment on a delinquent child for felony act committed against a disabled or elderly person, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled or elderly person is the victim of the violation. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsoring <u>Rep. Bill Patmon</u> (D-Cleveland) said the legislation will expand the number of felony offenses for which an offender can receive an enhanced penalty when the victim of the crime is elderly or disabled.

"House Bill 109 will loop in such felonies as telephone solicitation fraud, predatory lending, vandalism, ethnic intimidation, patient abuse, kidnapping, rape, abduction, murder and aggravated robbery just to name a few," he said. "Many of my constituents worry about going about their everyday lives for fear of what others may do to them."

He said federal statistics show that those with disabilities are more likely to be victimized than those without a disability.

"Offenders often see persons with a disability and the elderly as easy targets," he said. "We need to let offenders know that their egregious choices will come with serious consequences."

HB 117

OPIOID THERAPY (<u>Huffman, S., Brenner, A.</u>) To establish a statewide pilot program for the provision of long-acting opioid antagonist therapy for offenders convicted of an opioid-related offense who will be released from confinement on supervised release, and to specify that the therapy is to be provided during both their confinement and their supervised release. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsoring Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) said the aim of the legislation is to help prevent heroin addicts released from prison from relapsing.

"The risks of overdose increase dramatically if a former inmate uses after being incarcerated. Those who relapse frequently will use the amount of heroin they took while they were addicted. By using what they perceived to be a typical dosage, many fail to realize that their tolerance to the drug decreases dramatically," he said.

The legislation would create a voluntary pilot program in which naltrexone therapy would be administered to offenders before and after release. If approved, the program would run from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023.

Questioned about the cost of the program, sponsoring Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said the brunt of the cost of the would likely be borner by insurance companies or Medicaid.

HB 68...€

VOYEURISM (Anielski, M.) To include an impaired person as a potential victim of voyeurism, to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance, and to prohibit an owner, operator, administrator, or employee of a care facility from creating, sharing, reproducing, or publishing any image of a care facility resident without a proper purpose and without prior written consent from the resident. (SUBSTITUTE-CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

After a substitute version of the legislation was adopted that removed proposed changes designed to address "exploitation" and "gross exploitation," Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association Executive Director John Murphy spoke in favor of the measure.

"The penalty provided for in this bill is higher than that for any comparable offense under current law," he said. "This should provide a greater deterrent against taking advantage of elderly and other impaired persons for these purposes."

Christina Cottom and Cynthia Bazilius, both detectives with the Cleveland Division of Police, said they realized the need for the legislation after a 2014 incident in which a woman was taking sexually explicit photos and videos of impaired individuals in a health care facility at which she was employed.

"The twelve individuals, who were all victims of being exploited by an employee who was assigned to care for them, will never receive proper justice for this sexual exploitation," they said. "We then had to inform the family members that this suspect will not be charged with a felony crime for what she did to their loved ones, and let me tell you, this was heart wrenching."

HB 97

SEX OFFENSES (<u>Johnson</u>, <u>G.</u>, <u>Boggs</u>, <u>K.</u>) To eliminate the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, importuning, and public indecency and to permit a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The legislation would bring Ohio in line with 37 other states that do not treat marital rape differently from other forms of rape.

"These exemptions fail to protect individuals facing sexual violence and fail to protect the wellbeing and safety of our state. By not allowing all victims equal and unfettered access to justice, violent acts are not reported or prosecuted and sexual predators are allowed to roam freely," sponsoring Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus) said.

Added sponsoring Rep. Greta Johnson (D-Akron): "Marital exemptions also create a broken system in which victims are treated differently based on their relationship with the perpetrator. A woman is a human being deserving of justice and humanity regardless of her relationship to a man. Everyone who has experienced rape or sexual violence should be entitled to justice and protection of the law. No exceptions."

Following her testimony, Rep. Johnson, who plans to leave the General Assembly to take a job in Summit County, acknowledged the unlikelihood that the Democratic-sponsored measure will pass. But she urged her Republican colleague to take up the issue. "Find a place to make this an amendment and take all the credit for it," she said.

SB 25.

PERRY COUNTY COURT (Hottinger, J.) To create the Perry County Municipal Court in New Lexington on January 1, 2018, to establish one full-time judgeship in that court, to provide for the nomination of the judge by petition only, to abolish the Perry County County Court on that date, to designate the Perry County Clerk of Courts as the clerk of the Perry County Municipal Court, and to provide for the election for the Perry County Municipal Court of one full-time judge in 2017 and to declare an emergency. (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute, amendments & vote)

SB 7

PROTECTION ORDERS (<u>Bacon, K., Manning, G.</u>) To provide that service of a protection order or consent agreement upon a person is not necessary for the person to be convicted of the offense of violating a protection order if the person had actual notice of the order or agreement and the person recklessly violated its terms. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The need for the legislation, sponsoring <u>Sen. Kevin Bacon</u> (R-Minerva Park) said, arose from an Ohio Supreme Court decision that found a man who had not been served with but had knowledge of a protection order could not be charged and convicted of violating the protection order.

"A person can easily prevent themselves from being served by avoiding their primary place of residence. In some cases, an order might never be served simply because the offender evades the authorities for an extended_period_of time," he said. "Senate Bill 7, if passed, will provide clarity to the courts and protect victims of menacing by stalking, domestic violence and sexually-oriented crimes across the state."

The measure cleared the Senate in a unanimous vote.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony, visit the <u>committee's website</u> under March 21. State & Local Government

HB 103

FISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (Reineke, B.) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

State <u>Auditor Dave Yost</u> testified in support of the bill and briefed the panel on the workings of the local government fiscal distress process, which dates to 1978 and was enacted in response to the Cleveland debt crisis. (<u>Testimony</u>)

"Although the process has worked well since its inception, there are times when commissions become stalled, stonewalled or otherwise prevented from doing their work," he said. The bill addresses those shortcomings in part by applying facets of the school district financial distress laws to local governments, as he said schools generally spend a year less in fiscal distress compared to other local government entities.

"Although we have not imported the entire commission framework for schools, this legislation is an attempt to apply what works well from that statute and strike a balance between local influence and outside oversight," Mr. Yost said. "The legislation also contains some of our own recommendations to help entities begin the recovery process faster and ultimately implement their recovery plan."

The bill revises the composition of Fiscal Planning and Supervision Commissions to address problems that arise when local officials, who are sometimes responsible for their government's poor financial conditions, control the majority of seats on the seven-member panels. He said it reduces the seats under local control from five to three, with the rest coming from outside of the entity.

Also revised is the appointment process for local members to speed up the process, Mr. Yost said. The bill also addresses the content of fiscal recovery plans, grants additional powers to the commissions and codifies law allowing the state auditor to escalate an entity's status from fiscal watch to fiscal emergency.

Mr. Yost said the bill stems from two years of internal vetting and input from statewide associations representing local governments.

Chairwoman Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) observed that 23 entities are currently in fiscal emergency and another 10 are in other stages of fiscal distress.

<u>Rep. Steve Hambley</u> (R-Brunswick) said smaller villages seem to make up a lot of the governments under distress. Mr. Yost said that is sometimes a result of the villages' capacity to raise tax revenue.

The auditor told Rep. Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick) that reasons entities get into financial trouble include shrinking tax base and populations that sometimes result from larger economic factors. He also told the lawmaker that the bill does not delegate statutory authority to dissolve local governments.

Responding to a question from <u>Rep. Michael O'Brien</u> (D-Warren), the witness said the number of entities in various stages of fiscal distress is relatively consistent over the years but he has concerns moving forward given economic factors and capital needs of local governments.

PIPE MATERIALS (Edwards, J.) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-All testimony)

This bill will provide Ohio public authorities with flexibility and cost savings for state-funded investments in water and wastewater infrastructure, Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) said in testimony.

The legislation enables Ohio licensed design engineers to review and suggest any material they find appropriate for a water or wastewater project, he said.

The bill aims to drive down costs by utilizing competitive markets for the replacement of Ohio's water and wastewater systems, he told the panel.

Rep. Edwards explained that the change in law is necessary because approximately one third of Ohioans live in a public authority where free markets are limited by a "historical preference" or requirement for a specific piping material for projects.

Addressing concerns that have been raised, Rep. Edwards said that the language of the bill is plain and clear, and that the bill is about giving engineers and public authorities access to resources provided by a free market.

Rep. Edwards also said that the claim that a free market review of available materials will increase litigation from those who do not win a bid is a red herring.

In response to Rep. Anielski, Rep. Edwards clarified that a "historical preference" within city municipal code creates a closed market in favor of a particular resources, driving up costs for infrastructure projects.

Rep. Edwards responded to <u>Rep. Brian Hill</u> (R-Zanesville) that though few communities have these historical preferences, the number is deceiving because one third of Ohioans are affected.

The sponsor also explained to the panel that the bill is not driving down costs by encouraging local engineers to choose the cheapest material, rather through open market competition.

SNOW REMOVAL (<u>Arndt, S., Gavarone, T.</u>) To authorize certain townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property.

(REPORTED-AMENDED; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Prior to the committee's report, Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) won support for an amendment that he said clarifies snowfall is calculated on a per-month basis and that the bill does not confer any personal liability.

Rep. Bill Dean (R-Xenia) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) voted against the report.

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.) To designate May 24 as First
Responders' Appreciation Day. (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd HearingAll testimony-Possible vote)

SANITARIAN REVIEWS (<u>Hill, B.</u>) To require the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Health to adopt rules governing reviews of registered sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training who conduct inspections of retail food establishments and food service operations. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

TIF DISTRICTS (Cupp, R.) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 84 MONTH DESIGNATION (Arndt, S., Patton, T.) To designate June as "Ohio Goes Boating Month." (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

MONTH DESIGNATION (Sykes, E., Perales, R.) To designate February as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month." (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Phyllis Carlson-Riehm of ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, testified in support. She said the bill will raise awareness of teen dating violence, and builds on legislative actions taken in 2009 and 2010.

SB 18 DAY DESIGNATION (<u>Thomas, C.</u>) To designate September 12 as "Jesse Owens Day." (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

<u>Sen. Cecil Thomas</u> (D-Cincinnati) gave testimony for legislation designating Jesse Owens Day as his birthday, September 12.

"While his incredible athleticism is impressive on its own accord, his legacy is all the more noteworthy because of the character he showed in the face of bigotry," Sen. Thomas told the panel.

MONTH DESIGNATION (Beagle, B.) To designate the period beginning
March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month." (CONTINUED;
1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Beagle testified in support of the bill designating the time period between March 13 and April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."

He said in testimony that designating a "Deaf History Culture Month" would assist advocates in their efforts to raise awareness and celebrate the history and culture of the deaf community.

Public Utilities

RENEWABLE ENERGY (Blessing, L.) To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.

(CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the <u>committee's website</u> under March 21. Federalism & Interstate Relations

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (<u>Hagan, C.</u>, <u>Patmon, B.</u>) Application to the Congress of the United States for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States that is limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Barry Sheets, representing the Institute for Principled Policy, urged rejection of the resolution and joined dozens of opponents who either testified in person or submitted written statements against the proposal.

While the concept sounds reasonable to the average citizen, he said, states would not be in control of the process. Citing historical precedents including the original convention, he said

Congress would ultimately call the convention to consider amendments and the only role states would have afterward would be to ratify or reject those amendments.

"Other than a petition to begin the process, the states' role is non-existent until final ratification, and even then Congress controls which way the states may consider ratification: by legislature or convention, the said

"In essence, HJR2 calls for something that it can't have: a limited, controlled convention wherein the state legislatures set the issue of the debate," Mr. Sheets said.

"The subject matter of the call is not the primary issue here. The issue here is the mechanisms of Article V of the Constitution, the historical precedent of previous conventions, and the real possibility of wholesale changes to our carefully-structured system of governance."

Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesvile) said he agreed that anything can happen once a convention is called, but said it can only produce amendments that have to be ratified by the states. The witness said he agreed "in a perfect world" but noted the original convention centralized more power with the federal bureaucracy and ended up different than what the colonies had envisioned. For example, the colonies presumed unanimity would be required for amendments, but that was ultimately changed to only require the support of nine of the 13 colonies. Plus, the subject matter was widened from only interstate commerce to other issues, he said. The convention would be the ultimate authority over what came out of it. Responding to a comment from Rep. Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason), the witness questioned whether he should expect anything different from such a process as what currently exists in the way of members of Congress that in some people's opinion aren't doing their job correctly. Mr. Zeltwanger characterized that as a defeatist attitude.

Also commenting along the lines that the state should try something, Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) questioned whether it wasn't worth it to at least send a message to Congress and perhaps force its hand in coming up with similar amendments.

Mr. Sheets said such "brinkmanship" may be problematic given today's technology and the ability for foreign actors and other interests to extensively finance public opinion strategies to influence the process. He said the U.S. has the best government system and Constitution in the world and it should be retained.

William Serra, an instructor for a nationally-recognized course on the United States Constitution, warned that a constitutional convention would not be limited in scope.

"When we go that route, we don't throw the whole Constitution up for grabs," he said of amending the document through Congress and the states.

Ricki Pepin reiterated that point, and said a constitutional convention can thwart accountability, just as delegates that ratified the constitution had.

"Modern-day delegates could also choose to meet in secret so no one could monitor, much less have any input during their meeting times or have any idea what is being discussed or changed," she said.

Rep. Koehler asked Ms. Pepin if she believes the founders erred by including the possibility for changing the constitution through a convention.

"Amending it one piece at a time has worked," Ms. Pepin responded.

David Black of Ohio Citizens Defending the Constitution said that states would not have as much control over the process as some assume. He said the original constitutional convention - convened to ratify the Articles of Federation - changed the rules after it was convened to require ratification by just three-fourths of the states rather than all 13.

He said that the solution to what some perceive as federal overreach is more lawsuits against the federal government.

"We need the attorney general of this state to get some guts and start suing the federal government," he said.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.), however, lamented the power of federal judges, calling some a de facto "super legislature."

HCR 4

E-CHECK (Young, R.) To urge Congress to amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program, to urge the Administrator of USEPA to alleviate burdensome requirements of the E-Check Program and the Clean Air Act if Congress fails to act, and to encourage OEPA to explore alternatives to E-Check. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) said the substitute version urges Congress to:

- --Amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program.
- --Direct the Administrator of the USEPA to begin new rule-making procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards:
- --Pass legislation to achieve improvements in air quality more efficiently while allowing companies to innovate and help the economy grow.
- --Urge the Administrator of the USEPA to alleviate burdensome requirements of the E-Check Program and the Clean Air Act if Congress and the President fail to act; and to encourage OEPA to explore alternatives to E-Check in Ohio.

Rep. Young said his resolution focuses on E-Check for a number of reasons, including that it "has a disproportionate impact on poor and lower middle class citizens. Older cars fail the test at a much higher rate than newer cars. Often these cars are these citizens' only means of transportation."

"The so called emission check is for far too many poor Ohioans a very expensive and unnecessary computer check. Often such glitches are as simple as a loose wire, faulty engine light, sensor problem, or a simple issue not related in any way to any increase or reduction of pollution," he said. "The E-Check is not only expensive and unproductive. It is also very intrusive, inconvenient and unpopular. I certainly do not want to see this program expanded throughout Ohio."

That could be the case if the 2015 air quality rules aren't repealed or replaced, which is another focus of the measure, Mr. Young said.

"If the program was dropped, the Ohio EPA could reallocate the money spent on the unproductive E-Check Program to more effective and environmentally friendly initiatives," he said. "Ohio's current emissions testing program costs the state about \$10.6 million a year. It is projected that with the implementation of the 2015 Clean Air Standards at least one other

major part of the state (South Western Ohio, including Cincinnati and Dayton) will almost certainly be required to administer the test. If this is the case by the year 2020 the total cost to Ohio will be around \$25 million a year."

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) remarked that he was surprised to hear that seven counties in the Cleveland area were still subjected to E-Check requirements.

"We are still struggling under oppression," Rep. Young guipped.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the <u>committee's website</u> under March 21

Education & Career Readiness

HB 108☑

FINANCIAL LITERACY (<u>Hagan, C.</u>, <u>McColley, R.</u>) To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act." (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Christina Hagan (R-Alliance) said the bill "will give students the tools they need to wisely navigate future financial decisions."

Students would be required to earn at least a half unit of financial literacy during high school, she said. The course would include lessons on personal finance, the concepts of credit, debt, investments and sound money management.

The bill also creates an Informed Student Document created by the chancellor, Rep. Hagan said. It will be designed for prospective higher education students and their families in mind. "Ohio has one of the worst student loan debt problems in the United States; it is time that we change the dynamic and help our students to overcome this burden," she said.

Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) said the average debt held by graduates from Ohio universities is the \$29,353, and 67% of state students graduate with debt.

Studies completed in Idaho, Georgia and Texas, where students are required to complete financial literacy courses, found that student credit scores in those states increased substantially in the second year after completing the lessons, he said.

The sponsors said they've worked with superintendents and teachers to craft the legislation. They said they've found that financial literacy lessons that already exist are fragmented and inconsistent.

"For most teachers, they'd appreciate the clarity and direction," Rep. Hagan said. However, <u>Rep. Catherine Ingram</u> (D-Cincinnati) and Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) raised concerns about districts fitting financial literacy into their schedules.

"I do support the intent here. It's the execution where I'm having heartburn," Rep. Patterson said.

Rep. Hagan said the lessons could be worked into social studies courses or could be used to create a stand-alone elective course.

There is no research linking better knowledge of higher education costs to a decision not to pursue a degree, Rep. McColley told Rep. Ingram.

Presentation: Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria provided background on testing in the state and the changes it's undergone in recent years.

His <u>presentation</u> touched on the amount of time students spend taking tests, pointing out that it comprises less than 2% of a student's time over the course of their K-12 education. However, the superintendent said the Department of Education has "heard loud and clear the continuing desire to reduce testing" and is convening a workgroup to study the issue. **Finance: Health & Human Services Sub.**

The subcommittee heard testimony on Medicaid and Mental Health and Addiction Services issues in the budget (HB 492).

Medicaid managed care plans discussed the move of long-term services and supports into managed care, saying they are prepared for the new workload. (See separate story) The committee also heard testimony about infant mortality.

Dr. Benjamin McDonald, a Columbus-based neonatologist for Pediatrix Medical Group, urged the committee's support for a budget amendment addressing a disparity in payments for neonatal care services in Medicaid.

He urged the legislature to increase the neonatologist Medicaid reimbursement rate up to the Medicare rate or at least to the average Ohio Medicaid rate.

"The fact that Ohio's Medicaid compensation for neonatology services ranks near the bottom certainly presents challenges when we are trying to recruit physicians to Ohio," he said.

Dr. McDonald said their seven main billing codes in Medicaid average about 40% of the Medicare rate, far below the rates of surrounding states.

Former Rep. Denise Driehaus, now a Hamilton County commissioner, testified on behalf of the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition about funding requests the county is making to fight the drug epidemic.

She asked for funding specifically for her county, including for three new quick response teams and for more naloxone, but also urged the General Assembly to increase appropriations for child protective services.

"Hamilton County is investing heavily in these programs, and with your partnership, our efforts have the potential to be transformative, while providing models that can be replicated throughout the state," she said.

Ms. Driehaus outlined the successes of various programs the county has undertaken to fight the drug epidemic, and encouraged the committee to support funding for the programs as a model for the rest of the state.

"If you were to allocate dollars to the quick response team statewide, those could easily be replicated anywhere," she said. "Absolutely, I hope that you will replicate this model."

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee's website under March 21.

Finance: Transportation Sub.

The subcommittee's review began with Carey Williams, executive director of NorthWest Community Corrections Center in Wood County and member of CorJus, Inc. CorJus, Inc. is an association of ten publicly operated Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs), Mr. Williams told the panel.

The proposed budget continues to invest in the community through the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP), which will give additional funding to local communities to treat non-violent, non-sex offending, and low level felony offenders, he said.

Due to the cost, most CBCFs are not able to provide services to all the offenders in need, he

Mr. Williams told the panel that with a \$4.8 million investment in 501501 funding for CorJus, CBCFs would grow and create treatment efforts for the opiate epidemic, improve mental health services, increase and develop outpatient care, and divert additional offenders through residential programs all with a qualified staff.

"CBCFs are a natural fit for beginning opiate addition treatment because of their existing treatment components, built-in community linkage and cost-effectiveness." All ten members of CorJus support TCAP and the community initiatives in the proposed budget, he said. Mr. Williams told Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) that CBCFs are considered incarcerations whereas halfway houses are not.

Karen Humphrey, a case manager for West Central Correctional Facility shared her story of formerly being treated at West Central for drug addiction.

She expressed her gratitude for the guidance she received at the community corrections program.

Judge Jonathan Hein of Darke County also spoke in support of the TCAP proposal. He said the program meets the goal of community corrections programs. Additionally, the proposal provides judges with more alternatives.

"The current prison scheme is a one-size-fits-all solution to problems too complex to solve by that means. TCAP and its related funding will allow local communities to develop and implement those alternatives," he said.

Additionally, Judge Hein said TCAP urges stakeholders to implement solutions and provides incentives to be "smart on crime."

Though local jails will likely be burdened by the TCAP proposal at first, it will decrease eventually, he added. While opponents can argue that some cases warrant prison for low-level offenders, "these exceptional cases should not drive the public policy debate," he said. In response to Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon), Judge Hein explained that though they are still trying to define and measure recidivism, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence in support of CBCFs.

He told <u>Rep. Doug Green</u> (R-Mt. Orab) that the current funding level will not be enough in future budget cycles, but it is enough to get started.

Judge Tim Rudduck of the Clinton County Court of Common Pleas gave testimony in agreement with Judge Hein's assessment that these issues must be addressed on a local level.

The TCAP proposal provides funding to develop local programming focused on avoiding the cycle of sentencing people to prison, he said.

Lawrence County Prosecutor Brigham Anderson explained that from his experience, he believes that TCAP is the best solution.

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Mr. Anderson said that he is likely to see low-level offenders who were sentenced to prison again in the future. The community needs to address the recidivism problem for low level offenders and TCAP funding will allow them to do so, he said in testimony.

Student of the Graham School: Sophomores at the Graham School gave testimony on the importance of data collection in the juvenile courts.

Of the approximately 90,000 minors in the Ohio juvenile court system, there is data on about 5% of them, amounting to thousands unnoticed kids without appropriate resources to get the help that they need, the students told the panel.

The students told Rep. Green that they are asking for aggregate data collection, noting that currently there are multiple agencies collecting data in the juvenile courts, but many minors go undocumented.

Right on Crime Initiative: Marc Levin, policy director for the Right on Crime Initiative at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, addressed the panel.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation aided in Texas' shift in criminal justice policy, he said. Instead of building more prisons, Texas began improving alternatives for nonviolent offenders. Since making this shift, the Texas incarceration rate has decreased by more than 14 percent and its crime rate has decreased by more than 29 percent, Mr. Levin explained. Expanding on the success in Texas, Right on Crime was launched in 2010, he said. The proposed budget provides sufficient incentive to prioritize the use of the prison system and "provide effective supervision and treatment for nonviolent offenders in the community," he said.

Alliance for Safety and Justice: Brandon Chrostowski, a chef and businessman in Cleveland, shared his story of being granted probation rather than jail time after making a teenage mistake.

Mr. Chrostowski told the panel that he now runs the Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute, a non-profit that provides free training to the formally incarcerated so they can pursue a culinary career.

Mr. Chrostowski said that he believes increasing community supervision and keeping low level offenders out of the prison system is the best way to create safer communities.

"The proposal in the state budget will result in more success stories like mine and the graduates of our program. It will result in a safer state and more cost-effective criminal justice system," he said.

Shakyra Diaz, Midwest Regional Director for The Alliance for Safety and Justice, also testified.

"Too many of Ohio's criminal justice resources are wasted on ineffective over-incarceration practices instead of stopping cycles of crime and enhancing victim support," Ms. Diaz said in testimony.

Ms. Diaz testified in support of the budget's emphasis on rehabilitation, treatment and training for non-violent, low-level offenders.

"A balanced approach to public safety will allow law enforcement and incarceration resources to be focused on serious crime, while more resources go towards prevention and rehabilitation to make our collective communities safer," she said.

Next to address the panel was Sonia Matis, a volunteer in women's prisons and at a rape crisis center.

Ms. Matis testified that her experience reflects the results of the Alliance for Safety and Justice study of crime survivors, which found that crime survivors favor shorter prison sentences and greater investment on prevention and rehabilitation.

"Not only will these budget proposals save the state money in the long and short run, but it will be a major action against the drug crisis and literally save lives," she said in testimony. **Ohio Community Corrections Association:** Jennifer Turnes, president of the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA) testified before the panel.

"Our research-based programs address behavioral health issues and are proven to reduce recidivism. Clients are able to work and/or attend school while participating in treatment, gathering resources and learning skills for successful reentry," she said.

Though the OCCA enthusiastically supports the TCAP proposal, Ms. Turnes noted that OCCA suggests some broad parameters including that TCAP funds should be used for non-residential and residential sanctions and services.

Also, halfway houses, CBCFs and local jails as a sanction should be available and funds should be spent on services, not personnel costs, she said. TCAP funds should also not replace or supplant current funded programs.

Ms. Turnes added that the majority of TCAP funds allocated should be utilized for Rehabilitative and Recovery services provided by a Certified Provider and should continue to use ORAS risk/need assessments.

Ohio Poverty Law Center: Patrick Higgins and Stephen JohnsonGrove testified in support of the budget's improvements to the Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) program.

The CQE provisions in the budget will enable more rehabilitated individuals to reenter the workforce after incarceration, Mr. JohnsonGrove said.

Mr. Higgins outlined three amendments the OPLC suggests to increase the CQE statutes' effectiveness: to confirm that the correct statutory definitions are applicable to the CQE statute to match new language in the budget, to include federal and out-of-state offenses in the definition of those eligible for a CQE, and to provide filing fee guidance.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee's <u>website</u> under March 21. Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

The panel continued with budget bill (<u>HB 49</u>) testimony, including a return visit from Tax Commissioner Joe Testa, opposition testimony from the City of Columbus regarding the municipal business income tax proposal and concerns about the board consolidations in the package. (See separate stories)

Stephen JohnsonGrove delivered testimony on behalf of his wife Janelle and other wellness practitioners who support the budget provision responding to anti-trust concerns over professional regulatory boards. In his wife's case, she said in a letter that she sought to "offer professional services to women who want to avoid medications and address their health needs through natural, food-based approaches" but was informed by the state Board of Dietetics that she was violating state law by offering "nutrition counseling" without a license.

Mary Dwight and Lisa Feng, writing on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, opposed the budget bill in written testimony.

Specifically, they said the bill severely limits the eligibility and available services for the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps program.

"This program serves as a vital safety-net for families with children who have serious medical conditions, including cystic fibrosis, and promotes access to the high quality, specialized care and treatments that people with CF depend upon for optimal health," they wrote.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the <u>committee's website</u> under March 21.

Finance: Higher Education Sub.

David Anderson, senior vice president of state relations at The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, requested additional budget dollars to bolster its work in connecting students with opportunities.

In the center's nearly 20 years as a partner with Ohio, it has worked with 30 different institutions to connect their students with training and summer internships in Washington, he said. In the last five years, the center has accepted student from 20 private and public institutions in the state.

The committee also heard testimony from education groups, university professors and Western Governors Union. (See separate stories)

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, March 21, 2017

- EMERGENCY PROGRAMS (Coley, B.) To permit a board of county commissioners, as an alternative to entering into an agreement to establish a countywide emergency management agency, to enter into a contract of not longer than four years with the county sheriff or a chief of a fire department that has countywide authority to implement a countywide emergency management program. Am. 5502.26 and 5502.261
- SB 104 SCHOOL SECLUSION (Tavares, C.) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools. Am. 3319.46
- SB 105 MONTH DESIGNATION (<u>Tavares, C.</u>) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month." En. 5.2315
- SB 106 SMOKING (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is a passenger. Am. 4511.80
- SB 107

 VETERAN IDENTIFICATION (<u>Tavares, C.</u>) To provide that any nondriver identification card that is issued to a veteran who is disabled or blind may be issued without an expiration date. Am. 4507.52
- SB 108 MONTH DESIGNATION (<u>Tavares, C.</u>) To designate the month of June as "Pride Month." En. 5.242
- SB 109 MEDICAL INFORMATION (<u>Tavares</u>, <u>C</u>.) To establish the "Yellow Dot" motor vehicle medical information program within the Department of Public Safety. Am. 5502.59
- BB 110 HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION (<u>Tavares</u>, C.) To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient. Am. 4715.43, 4723.94, 4725.62, 4729.71, 4730.55, 4731.33, 4732.35, 4734.58, 4743.09, 4753.17, 4755.72, 4757.47, 4758.73,

4759.13, 4760.23, 4761.19, 4762.24, 4765.60, 4773.10, 4774.23, 4778.26, and 4779.35

- SB 111 SCHOOL ZONES (Tavares, C.) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation.

 Am. 4511.21
 - SB 112 INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (Schiavoni, J.) To establish the green infrastructure fund and to make an appropriation. Am. 164.11
 - FUEL TAX (Coley, B.) To levy an additional registration tax on passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars and trucks beginning on January 1, 2020; to authorize a per-gallon motor fuel retail price reduction for consumers that is equal to the state per-gallon motor fuel tax of \$.28; and to exempt each gallon of motor fuel that is sold at the reduced retail price from the state motor fuel tax. Am. 4503.10, 5735.06, and 5735.10 and to enact sections 4501.50, 4503.106, and 5735.50

 Gongwer Coverage
 - HEALTH LAW (Jordan, K.) To urge Congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act and to recommend that future federal health care policies pursue free market solutions, restore power to patients, health care providers, and the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

SB 55
NURSE STAFFING (Skindell, M.) To establish minimum ratios of direct-care registered nurses to patients in hospitals, to specify rights of registered nurses working in hospitals, and to prohibit retaliatory actions by hospitals against registered nurses. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor <u>Sen. Michael Skindell</u> (D-Lakewood) said the bill would improve health outcomes and help nurses by limiting the number of patients they can be responsible for in certain hospital settings and requiring hospitals to establish and post policies for nurse staffing ratios.

"Where nursing staffs are insufficient in a unit of a hospital, there are also health and safety issues for nurses, whereby they may have greater stress in achieving the objectives of the job of patient care," he said. "This bill addresses these health and safety shortcomings in the health care industry."

The measure also prohibits mandatory overtime to meet ratio requirements and establishes protections for nurses who act as whistleblowers.

<u>Sen. Peggy Lehner</u> (R-Kettering) asked what happened if a hospital violates the ratio. Sen. Skindell said the hospital would be fined.

SB 71

AGENCY CONTRACTS (Manning, G.) To allow a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to authorize its executive director to execute contracts valued at \$50,000 or less without the board's prior approval. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor <u>Sen. Gayle Manning</u> (R-N. Ridgeville) said the bill would allow the executive director of a county board of mental health to enter into contracts for routine administrative and treatment functions up to \$50,000.

"Clients who have overdosed, harmed themselves or may be a danger to others are required to stay in an emergency room due to their existing contract even if it is not the best fit," she said. "The current law stands that the executive director on the mental health board is unable to approve the relocation of a client without being approved by the board."

Sen. Manning said the bill is permissive, meaning each board can determine the level of control they feel is necessary.

"This legislation would allow someone in a crisis situation to be moved to a more appropriate treatment location with the approval from the executive director whether the board has had the opportunity to meet or not," she said.

SB 80

EBT CARDS (<u>Huffman</u>, <u>M</u>.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor <u>Sen. Matt Huffman</u> (R-Lima) said the bill would require color photographs on electronic benefit transfer cards issued through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"Sometimes these cards are used because they're stolen from the person who's supposed to be using them," Sen. Huffman said. "Sometimes they're also, unfortunately, sold for cash. And sometimes they're used in an illicit underground economy."

Sen. Huffman said there are exemptions in place in cases of individuals over age 60, those with disabilities, victims of domestic violence and those with religious objections to having their picture taken. He said people would also be able to put multiple pictures on the cards. "In the first place, the purpose of this is to protect the benefits of the person who's supposed to be using them," he said.

He also said the workers in stores would not be required to revoke the card or anything like that, but that they could call police using a number on the card to report possible fraud. "There's not going to be a confrontation at the store," he said.

The biggest effect of the bill, Sen. Huffman said, would be that people would be deterred from using someone else's card.

SB 96 PUBLIC BENEFITS (Coley, B.) Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program.

(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The bill is intended to reduce fraud and improper payments in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and in Medicaid, Sponsor <u>Sen. Bill Coley</u> (R-Liberty Twp.) said. It would require state agencies to verify eligibility quarterly and to check against state, federal and commercial databases, including earned and unearned income, employment status, immigration status, state residency, enrollment in other programs, financial resources, lottery winnings, incarceration status and death records.

"Many of these changes have been initiated in other states and proven very successful in correcting errors and removing fraud," Sen. Coley said. "This is not about taking away benefits from people who need assistance, the very people welfare programs were created to help. Instead, it protects the most vulnerable and taxpayer dollars from those no longer eligible but who remain in the system."

SB 98

DENTAL THERAPISTS (Lehner, P., Thomas, C.) To establish licensing requirements for dental therapists. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsors Sen. Lehner and Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) said the bill would improve access to dental care by creating a mid-level profession of dental therapists. Those

access to dental care by creating a mid-level profession of dental therapists. Those therapists would be able to perform some procedures, operating under the supervision of a dentist.

"Team-based dental care that includes skilled mid-level practitioners can increase access to quality in a comprehensive, cost-effective way," Sen. Lehner said. "This evidence-based approach to expanding access to oral health care through mid-level providers will modernize our state's dental practice that is currently on its way to leaving millions of Ohioans without care in the coming years."

The bill would also increase the ability of dental hygienists to provide basic cleanings and preventive care in a setting where a dentist might not be physically present, Sen. Lehner said.

Sen. Thomas likened areas without dental services to food deserts, and pointed out that only a fraction of the state's more than 6,000 dentists accept Medicaid patients.

"How can we expect our children to grow with confidence when they are embarrassed to even crack a smile?" he said.

<u>Sen. Charleta B. Tavares</u> (D-Columbus) said it would likely cut down on emergency room visits for toothaches and other dental problems, and Sen. Lehner said conditions such as abscessed teeth can be fatal.

"My understanding is that the only thing that the emergency room can do for a patient who comes in with a toothache is give them pain medication," Sen. Tavares said.

SB 99 MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (Coley, B.) To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Sen. Coley said the bill would end new enrollments in the expansion, or Group VIII,

Medicaid population

"With the skyrocketing costs of health care that we've all seen firsthand, we need to consider all options and prioritize care," he said. "Even with the introduction of the American Health Care Act, this freeze of Medicaid expansion is necessary."

While the repeal of the Affordable Care Act is likely, he said, the state should stop enrollment until the plan to replace it becomes apparent.

The bill would not kick anyone off of Medicaid, but would limit new enrollees, Sen. Coley said.

"Everybody who's in the pool now stays in the pool, we just don't get any new swimmers in the expansion group until we know what's going on," he said.

<u>Sen. Edna Brown</u> (D-Toledo) said she was worried it would leave many people, particularly single adults, without access to insurance.

"I have quite a large number of constituents, particularly young men, in this age group that I'm talking about, 19-64, who do not have children, who do not have medical coverage," she said.

Sen. Coley said the lack of doctors who accept Medicaid patients makes it hard for them to get care even if they have coverage.

Sen. Tavares said she thought it would be better to make sure those people can get coverage, even if it will be taken away later, because it will allow them to deal with some conditions.

"It is better, in our health care system, to have people get their care taken care of while we have the Affordable Care Act, and waiting on whatever that next program is to cover everyone," she said. "At least we would have some care provided in a more cost-effective way, rather than waiting until they show up on a hospital emergency room."

Sen. Coley said recent legislation has incentivized doctors to volunteer their skills and time in exchange for continuing education credits, and that can help handle some of the care needs.

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

(CONTINUED (See separate story); 6th Hearing-All testimony)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony, visit the <u>committee's website</u> under March 21. Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

HB 59 DAY DESIGNATION (Leland, D., West, T.) To designate October 7 as "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) and **Rep. Thomas West** (D-Canton) urged the panel to approve the bill that honors the African American baseball pioneer.

Mr. Leland said the Ohio-born Moses Fleetwood Walker was the first African American to play in the major leagues, having suited up for the Toledo Blue Stockings in a league that was the precursor to MLB's American League.

Rep. West said Mr. Walker was hated by most people on the field - including his teammates - solely because of his race. His time as a player, he said, came just years after the end of slavery.

BUILDING CODES (<u>Bacon, K.</u>) To enable limited home rule townships to adopt building codes regardless of any similar codes adopted by the county in which the township resides. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Heidi Fought of the Ohio Township Association urged support for the proposal, saying it would grant authority to 32 townships that have limited home rule authority.

Also testifying on behalf of the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships, she said the townships that would pursue building codes and departments are sophisticated and have the skills needed to operate the agencies.

Ms. Fought added that townships qualifying under the bill would still have to go through an extensive public process before adopting building codes. Further, she said a vote to establish a code would have to be unanimous among trustees.

Bryan Rhoads of Blendon Township offered brief proponent testimony. He said the measure would set the stage for his township to establish its own building code that would allow residents and businesses to seek all the permits they need at a single location.

DRONE USE (Skindell, M., Jordan, K.) To regulate the use of drones for gathering evidence and information by law enforcement officers in Ohio. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

<u>Sen. Michael Skindell</u> (D-Lakewood) urged support for the bill that he said makes sure that the Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules of Evidence and basic civil liberties are preserved when law enforcement officials use drones.

"Specifically, the legislation states that, with rare exceptions, law enforcement must obtain search warrants in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure," he said.

The sponsor said there are some rare occasions, such as emergencies, when warrants would not be needed. The bill also declares that drones can be used to collect information involving traffic accidents and helping to locate missing persons whose health or mental states may create a need for drone use. The bill, he said, also establishes reporting requirements on drone use by law enforcement.

Mr. Skindell said drone use is almost omnipresent, and they can create privacy and civil liberty concerns.

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) and <u>Sen. Vernon Sykes</u> (D-Akron) questioned whether there is a difference between evidence and information collected by drone.

Sen. Skindell said he would review the language to see if definitions needed to be enhanced.

Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) said he has used drones overseas, and that decisions about who maintains information and analytics is important.

Co-sponsor Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) said the founders were some of the country's biggest civil libertarians, and the measure will help "clean up" some of the rights that citizens have.

He said the right to privacy is important, and added that the use of law enforcement drones

> Sen. Skindell told Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) that the bill impacts all law enforcement that use state courts, including both state and local authorities, including the Attorney General and State Highway Patrol.

Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) said downtown areas may have several cameras that are regularly monitored by law enforcement that may make arrests based on what they observe. Sen. Skindell said a key difference is that the municipal cameras are often stationary, and are not flown onto a person's private property.

DAY DESIGNATION (Hackett, B.) To designate the twenty-fifth day of May SB 86 ≥ as "Ohio National Missing Children's Day." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) said his bill would help raise awareness of missing children in Ohio and beyond. **Judiciary**

HB 1

DATING PROTECTION ORDERS (Sykes, E., Manning, N.) To authorize the issuance of dating violence protection orders with respect to conduct directed at a petitioner alleging dating violence, to provide access to domestic violence shelters for victims of dating violence, and to require the Attorney General's victim's bill of rights pamphlet to include a notice that a petitioner alleging dating violence has the right to petition for a civil protection order. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) said her bill "would close a loophole in existing state law that leaves thousands of Ohioans without recourse in the event of dating violence." Current law does not allow individuals who are in dating or intimate relationships to obtain

protection orders when those relationships turn violent, she said. Individuals must be spouses, family members, cohabitating, or share a child in common to receive those protections presently.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that nearly 25% of women and 7.6% of men have been victims of intimate partner violence, Rep. Sykes said. Other studies show females between the ages of 16-24 experience the highest rate of relationship violence of any age group.

"While the purpose of domestic violence statues is to give victims protection against the pervasive cycle of abuse, victims abused in these violent relationships by those in dating relationships do not gain protection simply because they do not fall into the current statutory definition, although they experience similar types of violence," she said. She added that Ohio would become the 49th state to extend protection orders to victims of dating violence if the bill is enacted.

For those who may be leery of the effectiveness of protection orders, joint sponsor <u>Rep. Nathan Manning</u> (R-N. Ridgeville) said research has found that violence stopped or declined after the orders were approved.

The bill has been revised since the last time it appeared before the committee, Rep. Sykes said. It clarifies gun restriction laws pertaining to protection orders and does not include language regarding orders obtained by juveniles.

The latest iteration also requires individuals to provide more information about the nature of their relationships when filing for the orders, she said.

Answering questions from the panel, Rep. Manning said those who would be eligible for the protection orders as a result of dating violence likely wouldn't fall into the category of those who can receive protection orders as a result of menacing stalking.

SB 12

DRUG OFFENSES (<u>LaRose, F.</u>) To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. (REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

The committee accepted two amendments before advancing the measure.

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) offered the first amendment stating that prosecutors would have the burden of proving individuals had knowledge that drugs they possessed contained fentanyl.

The language only applies to individuals possessing Schedule 3-5 drugs, such as marijuana, in the amount of four grams or less, he said. It has the support of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, judges and prosecutors.

The change will ensure that those who would have otherwise been charged with a misdemeanor aren't charged with trafficking when they had no idea their drugs contained fentanyl, Mr. Dolan said.

"I think that's the goal of this committee: to make sure we're going after the right people," he said.

Chairman <u>Sen. Kevin Bacon</u> (R-Minerva Park) offered an amendment that would remove language regarding marijuana trafficking and manslaughter sentencing "that shouldn't have been there in the original bill."

SB 20 ₪

FELONY SENTENCES (<u>Hackett, B.</u>) To require an additional prison term of 3 to 8 years for an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence if the offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm. (**REPORTED**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

<u>Sen. Michael Skindell</u> (D-Lakewood) offered a failed amendment that would have given judges the ability to add any time up to eight years onto the sentence for the specification.

He argued that judges should be given the discretion to determine how many years should be added as opposed to be requires to add at least three years when children are permanently disabled.

Sen. Bacon, who supported the eventual tabling of the amendment, said the bill's sponsor preferred the narrow specification set forth in the bill.

Barry Wilford, with the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, opposed the measure, saying the current law is working as it should.

He argued that the case that inspired the bill wasn't handled in line with other cases like it and the proposed language could result in a longer jail sentence for permanently disabling a child than for murdering a child.

The witness also told the committee that to determine permanent disabling harm, medical and psychological experts will have to be brought in to courts - a process that can be costly.

TRIAL TIMELINES (Eklund, J.) To provide a prosecutor an additional fourteen days to commence a trial after a person charged with a felony has been discharged because the person has not been brought to trial within the required amount of time and to authorize the court to release the person from detention in connection with those charges pending trial. (REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said an amendment added to the bill would ensure the three-for-one counting mechanism that is in state law would not apply when a case is preparing to come to trial under the bill

The committee accepted two amendments from Sen. Eklund that clarify the information provided to a defendant is only what is available in LEADS and allow for the redaction of personal identifying details regarding witnesses, law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

CRIMINAL LAWS (<u>Eklund</u>, <u>J.</u>, <u>Tavares</u>, <u>C.</u>) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Gene Gallo, executive director of the Eastern Ohio Correctional Center and a member of CorJus, said the bill is important as the state looks to reduce its prison population and supervise low-level, nonviolent offenders in their communities.

"(Community Based Correctional Facilities) provide evidence-based programmatic
intervention in the community for eligible felony offenders," he said: "The programming
includes education, job training, cognitive behavioral therapy, family outreach, and substance
abuse treatment during the term of their sentences - all aimed to rehabilitate the individual
and strengthen our communities."

Michael Randle, president-elect of the Ohio Community Corrections Association, said the bill's focus on intervention is particularly vital as opiate abuse is increasing throughout the state.

The bill also expands judges' abilities to consider including rehabilitation alongside punishment, he said.

"Formally including rehabilitation in the sentencing principals will allow judges more discretion to craft effective sentences," he said.

Mr. Randle asked that the panel take up an amendment that would add halfway houses to the list of places where individuals can serve terms. The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction supports the change, he said.

"The research-based programs and services that halfway houses provide have been proven to reduce recidivism, and the individuals who are placed in a halfway house will engage in treatment services, gather resources and learn the skills necessary for a successful, crimefree life during their stay," he said.

DRG pays for halfway house stays if they're imposed as a sanction, he told the panel. Shakyra Diaz, Midwest regional director for The Alliance for Safety and Justice, said the organization conduction the first national survey of victim's views in the country and found that by a margin of 2-1, they'd like to see the criminal justice system focus more on rehabilitation.

"By a margin of 3 to 1, crime victims shared the belief that time in prison make people more likely to commit another crime rather than less likely," she said.

Wendy Tarr, director of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network, said the bill's provisions on expunging and sealing records will go a long way in helping low-level offenders reintegrating into society.

"Many returning citizens we work with lack needed family support, educational or vocation skills, and housing. However, even others who do have these things still face serious challenges in their reentry. All are in need of changes in the law to help them move forward, especially in accessing employment that goes beyond the lowest paid positions with little to no career path options," she said. "Expansion of record expungement and sealing is critically important towards this goal."

Brandon Chrostowski said he founded EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute in Cleveland to address that issue of finding work and meaning upon re-entry into society. EDWINS trains former incarcerated Ohioans to work in the culinary field, he said. Of the 170 who have graduated from the program, just two have gone back to jail and about 96% are in jobs in their trained field.

Answering questions from lawmakers, Mr. Chrostowski said the institute purposefully doesn't focus on why enrollees went to prison or how long they were there, so he doesn't have data showing whether certain types of inmates would do better in training programs upon release. The institute gives enrollees three weeks to learn the basics of the food industry, cooking and career preparation before they can begin the six-month training course, he said. About half drop out in that time, but some do come back later to enroll when they're better prepared. The committee also heard testimony from a handful of formerly incarcerated individuals who've struggled to find work as a result of their previous records or who have landed back in prison for minor parole violations.

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the Mafter a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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ال المناب المنا

From: report@hannah.com

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:10 PM

To: DL Hannah

Subject: Hannah News Stories for Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- Public Utilities Committee Resumes Mandates-Versus-Markets Debate
- Auditor Uncovers Fraud, Illegal Spending at Southern Ohio Correctional Facility

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- **ODE Kicks Off Testing Workgroup**
- DeMaria Takes Testing Presentation to House Education Committee
- Ohio Chamber Launches Research Foundation
- Schiavoni Proposes Green Infrastructure Grant Program
- State Government Roundup: Marine Patrol Units; APV Areas
- Ohio Digest: National Agriculture Day
- Campus Chronicle: Toledo
- Judicial Actions: Supreme Court Exhibit
- Legislative Schedule Change

House Committee Reports

- Criminal Justice
- Economic Development, Commerce and Labor
- **Education and Career Readiness**
- Federalism and Interstate Relations
- Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee
- Finance Higher Education Subcommittee
- Finance State Government and Agency Review Subcommittee
- Finance Transportation Subcommittee
- Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development
- **Public Utilities**
- Rules and Reference
- State and Local Government
- Ways and Means

Senate Committee Reports

- Health, Human Services and Medicaid
- Judiciary
- Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs

- Rules and Reference Committee
- Transportation, Commerce and Workforce

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From: Price, Ciara

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:22 AM

To: 'benitanowak@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: Donald Trump

Dear Benita,

Thank you for reaching out. As Rep. LaTourette is your representative to the Ohio Statehouse, she is not part of the federal delegation in Congress. I recommend contacting Congressman Dave Joyce to voice your concerns: https://joyce.house.gov/contact/

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with future state legislative concerns.

Sincerely,

Ciara Price
Legislative Aide
State Representative Sarah LaTourette
House District 76
77 South High Street, 14th Floor | Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office: (614)644-5088
Ciara.price@ohiohouse.gov

----Original Message----

From: benitanowak@gmail.com [mailto:benitanowak@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 7:13 PM To: Rep76 < Rep76@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Donald Trump

First Name: Benita

Last Name: Nowak

Address: 75 Brighton Drive

City: Aurora

State: OH

Zip: 44202

Phone: 330.348.0469

Email: benitanowak@gmail.com

Subject: Donald Trump

Message:

Representative LaTourette:

Under the 25th Amendment Section 4, Congress has the right to remove (with a majority vote) an incompetent president. This would-be Donald Trump and here is why. He has put our country at risk with our allies with his actions, statements and tweets. He is not focused on situations like N. Korea including the Ohio student being held there in a hard labor prison. He has spent more in 12 weeks (millions) than President Obama spent in a year (a fact) on his leisure travel when we have provided him a home and an office in our nation's capital, not to mention what is being spent on his wife and children throughout the world, (which his \$400,000 donated salary would never cover). This doesn't even go to the fact that he and his cabinet/campaign may have committed treason in colluding with s policies are throwing the poor, elderly, middle class and many Americans Russia and his teamâ away when it comes to basic necessities of clean water, food (meals on wheels), healthcare and so much more that you are aware of. I understand the trickledown theory of providing tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, but not when it hurts other human beings and our country. At this point, I don't care if V.P. Pence is appointed President as he at least seems competent and understands diplomacy. Can you commence these proceedings to get to a vote in Congress to remove Donald Trump from office immediately before any more damage is done? Please. I am an American begging you to save our already Great country.

Thank you for standing up for us and what is right.

Benita Nowak

benitanowak

From:

benitanowak@gmail.com

Sent:

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 5:22 PM

To:

rep76@ohiohouse.gov

Subject:

Donald Trump

First Name : Benita

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City: Aurora

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Thank you for standing up for us and what is right.

Benita Nowak

From: Ohio Arts Council

Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 11:46 AM

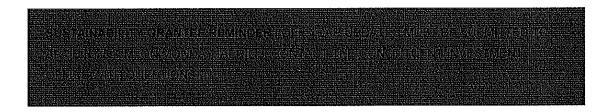
To: Rep76

Subject: March

Events, Advocacy, & Deadlines

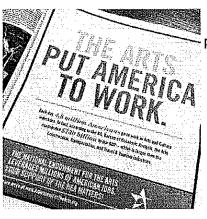
Catch up with what's new on the blog, mark your calendar for panel meetings, and save the date for upcoming events.

View this email in your browser Share your story with #ArtsOhio





ARTS ADVOCACY DAY RECAP



As you know, last Thursday, President Donald Trump proposed eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in his budget request to Congress. Without delay, advocates for the arts snapped into action to defend the importance of public funding for the arts.

Here at the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), we proudly carried

the same message to Washington—public funding for the arts through the National Endowment for the Arts is essential.

KEEP READING DONNA'S MESSAGE



MEET THE 2017 OHIO POETRY OUT

LOUD STATE CHAMPION

Madeleine Schroeder, a senior at Columbus Alternative High School, won Ohio's 12th annual *Poetry Out Loud* State Finals held on March 4. She goes on to represent Ohio in the National Finals in Washington, D.C., April 25-26. Congrats and good luck to Maddie!

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SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING: THE DICK & JANE PROJECT

As part of an ongoing blog series with The Wells Foundation, Patrick Westerlund interviews Ben Shinabery, founder of the Dick & Jane Project, in this month's creative spotlight. Learn more about the organization and how alternative funding models fuel their success.

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MORE ABOUT THE 2017 POETRY OUT LOUD FINALS

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CONNECTED THROUGH THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE: PART 1 OF 3

Experiences, the lessons learned and communicated, are the concepts that drive the current exhibition Come Along With Me. In this series, Kim Webb, Riffe Gallery fellow, interviews three of the exhibited artists to hear their story. First up is Dan Jian.

RIFFE GALLERY ARTIST INTERVIEW WITH DAN JIAN



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

Artwork from each of the 99 districts of the Ohio House of Representatives is featured in this annual exhibition. Check out photos from the March 4 ceremony that honored the achievement and creativity of the 2017 student artists.

BEATTHRANGON

HOWEN WOLKS WINGS HAND

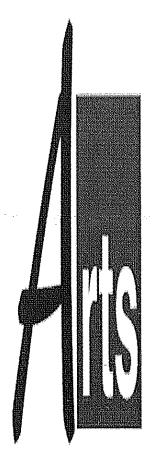
SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2017 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS WINNERS

Get to know the winners through the words of their supporters. Head to the ArtsOhio blog to learn more about Raymond Bobgan, Jim McCutcheon, SMARTS, and Puffin Foundation West. Posts will continue to be published as we count down to the luncheon on May 17.



REMINDER | MARCH 28 WEBINAR WITH ARTS MIDWEST

Tune in on Tuesday, March 28, 1:30-2:30 p.m. to discover funding and learning opportunities with Arts Midwest, including the Arts Midwest Booking and Education Conference and the Arts Midwest Touring Fund. Can't listen in? Subscribe to the OAC's YouTube Channel and watch the recording.





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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

ICAUSE COLLABORATIVE

June 2, 2017, at the Columbus College of Art and Design

Cause Collaborative is an annual event teatered to the nonprofit and social enterprise community. This year's conversations are teentered on the theme *Art Unites Us.* Topics include fundraising, board development, the include fundraising, board development, the include fundraising planning, and more. Visit is ausecollab.com for a full schedule, the isponsorship opportunities, and a look at inpast events. TICKETS ONLY \$50.



FOR ALL | Deadlines & Dates to Remember

Mark Your Calendar

April 3: ArtSTART Deadline and Sustainability

Year 3 Updates Due

April 5: OAC Spring Board Meeting

April 6: Arts Access Panel Meeting

April 7: Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Panel

Meeting

April 11: Arts Partnership | Day One

April 12: Arts Partnership | Day Two

April 18: ArtsNEXT | Day One

April 19: ArtsNEXT | Day Two

April 24: Poetry Out Loud National Finals in

Washington D.C.

Happening in the OAC Riffe Gallery

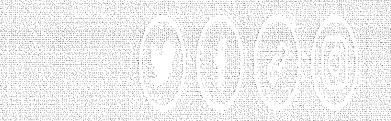
Drop-in during lunch for **FREE** workshops with Melissa Vogely-Woods during the *Come Along With Me* exhibition. All levels welcome!

March 29: Personal narrative tree project April 5: Stitched book binding workshop April 12: Narrative-based collage project

Coming Soon | Lobby Exhibition

March 28 - April 3: *The Collage of Women Artists*Artwork by female amateur and professional artists who grow, show, and paint together.

Image credits: 1) Todd Callentine, Ohio *POL event* photographer; 2) Provided by Ben Shinabery of the Dick & Jane Project; 3) Courtesy of the artist Dan Jian, *Blue Threads and Buddha's Hand*; 4) Mike Elicson, Ohio House of Representatives event photographer.



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From: Policy Matters Ohio

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 12:39 PM

To: Rep76

Subject: JobWatch: More than a blip?



For immediate release Contact Hannah Halbert 614.397.6080

JobWatch: More than a blip?

Ohio gains 15,000 plus jobs last month

Ohio posted five-figure job gains in February, according to new data released today by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. In a much welcome departure from the sluggish growth that dogged the state in 2016, February brought an additional 15,200 jobs to Ohio.

"Last year was Ohio's worst year for job growth since the end of the 2007 recession," said Hannah Halbert, researcher with Policy Matters Ohio. "Today's report is good news for the state. The real test is whether this is a blip or a real reversal of Ohio's post-recession slog,"

Ohio made gains in goods-production and in service sector work. Construction, a sector that has not yet recovered all the jobs it had when the recession began in December 2007, gained 6,300 jobs in February, perhaps buoyed by unseasonably warm weather. Manufacturing had a small overall gain (+900). Extraction jobs in mining and logging continued to decline (-200). Service sector growth was led by leisure and hospitality work, which added 4,000 jobs last month.

"Even with the strong showing in February, Ohio's 12-month growth rate of 0.8 percent is half that the national average of 1.6 percent," said Halbert. "The state needs many more months like February to catch-up."

The household survey, which generates the data for the unemployment rate, uses a completely different methodology from the employer survey that produces the data on job growth. The differences include how each defines "jobs." Occasionally, the surveys appear to conflict, with one showing job growth and the other showing an increase in unemployment or in the unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate increased slightly to 5.1 percent in February, but the increase was driven by an uptick in the number of people actively looking for work. The labor force increased by 35,000. Most of that gain came from growth in employment (28,000), but some did not find work, with the number of people unemployed increasing by 7,000. Overall, growth in the labor force is a positive. Ohio's labor force is still down about 235,000 since the start of the 2007 recession.

"Today's report is strong but we've seen similar blips before. The state needs consistently strong growth because we have big challenges," said Halbert. "We are among the worst states for college affordability, food insecurity, and the share of jobs paying poverty level wages."

Read JobWatch online

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From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:01 AM

To: Westlake, Libby

Subject: E-Clips for 3/27/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

3/27/2017



REPUBLICAN JOHN KASICH LEADS CHARGE FOR BALANCED BUDGET VOTE

Republican John Kasich is not giving up on his goal of a federal balanced budget amendment, a tool the Ohio governor says is ever more important as the U.S. national debt ticks toward \$20 trillion.

JUDGE: CASE ALLEGING OHIO 'SEGREGATES' DISABLED CAN PROCEED

A federal judge has rejected requests by Ohio Gov. John Kasich and several state officials to dismiss a lawsuit that alleges the state has effectively segregated people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in institutions by failing to provide accessible community- or home-based services.

OHIO SCHOOL-FUNDING SUIT LEAVES MARK AFTER 20 YEARS

Twenty years after the first decision in Ohio's landmark school-funding lawsuit, hundreds of new school buildings dot the landscape and the notion of what constitutes an adequate education is regularly debated in U.S. state capitals.

STUDENTS SCORE SPECIAL HONOR FOR OHIO BARNS

The Ohio House has unanimously passed a bill designating the barn as the official historical architectural structure of Ohio.

OHIO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CLIMBS TO 5.1 PERCENT

State officials say Ohio's unemployment rate rose to 5.1 percent in February, slightly higher than the 5 percent reported for January and for February 2016.

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

More Ohio newborns suffer from mother's addiction

The number of Ohio babies who come into the world sick and craving drugs continues to soar.

OHIO LAWMAKERS STILL SEEK FIX FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND

Lawmakers working with business and labor to fix Ohio's unemployment compensation system say both sides must contribute to shore up the fund and ensure it has enough money to cover benefits in the next economic downturn.

'LET'S GROW UP, AND LET'S SERVE AMERICANS,' KASICH SAYS OF HEALTH-CARE FIX

Ohio Gov. John Kasich continues to call on "reasonable" Republicans and Democrats to unite and craft a bipartisan fix for Obamacare that preserves expanded Medicaid coverage for the drug-addicted and mentally ill.

TINY BANK IN TUSCARAWAS COUNTY WANTS REFUND ON CONTESTED OHIO TAX THAT WAS REPEALED

The same tiny eastern Ohio bank that brought down a state bank tax now wants a refund on the years the tax was in effect.

Is Gov. John Kasich a bargain for Ohio taxpayers - or not?

Gov. John Kasich's paycheck is a relative bargain for Ohio taxpayers.

20 YEARS AFTER DEROLPH, STATE NOT EVEN TRYING TO DETERMINE LEGAL DUTY

Twenty years after the Ohio Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling that the state's schoolfunding system was unconstitutional, the Statehouse debates over many of the same issues remain prevalent.

HOUSE LIKELY TO REJECT KASICH CHANGE TO PROGRAM HELPING STATE'S SICKEST KIDS

Facing a wave of opposition from medical professionals and families caring for the state's sickest children, House Republicans plan to strip from the budget proposed changes to the Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps.

PATROL DISPATCHES NEW TROOPERS IN WAR ON DRUGS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

They marched into the State Highway Patrol Academy gymnasium in their dress uniforms, proclaiming in cadence, "Hail, hail State Patrol."

CHECK OUT OHIO'S 20 HIGHEST-PAID STATE EMPLOYEES

As usual, the top earners among state employees are those working at state psychiatric hospitals.

EDITORIAL: IT'S TIME TO REIN IN PAYDAY LENDERS

For far too long, Ohio has allowed payday lenders to take advantage of those who are least able to pay.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondallynews.com

'WORLD'S GREATEST LEADER' LIST INCLUDES KASICH, LEBRON

Who's a better leader, John Kasich or LeBron James?

DOCTORS TOP OHIO'S TOP-PAID STATE WORKER LIST

The top paid state workers who each grossed more than \$250,000 in 2016 are all doctors working in Ohio's prisons or mental health systems, according to data released Friday by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

THE PLAIN DEALER

NEW STATEWIDE SURVEY SHOWS OHIO REMAINS POLITICALLY DIVIDED

During his Election Night speech last November, Donald Trump said it was time to "bind the wounds of division," and called for the nation to "come together" in the wake of his stunning victory.

DO VOUCHERS GIVE KIDS BETTER EDUCATIONS? OHIO TEST RESULTS ARE MIXED

The school voucher programs that some federal and state officials want to expand have mixed test results in Ohio that make it unclear how much more students learn than if they had stayed in their local public schools.

SCHOOLS MUST CALL PARENTS IF KIDS ARE ABSENT, SAYS BILL AFTER ALIANNA DEFREEZE KILLING

Schools across Ohio would have to call parents right away if kids are not in class each morning under a new bill that would make these so-called "Alianna Alerts" mandatory.

JOHN KASICH SAYS DONALD TRUMP SHOULD COMPROMISE WITH DEMOCRATS ON HEALTHCARE: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP

Kasich says it's time for Trump to reach across the aisle and make a deal. The 2016 election appears to have continued in 2017, according to a new statewide poll.

IN GOP-DOMINATED OHIO, POPULATION SHIFTS EQUAL POLITICAL SHIFTS: THOMAS SUDDES

By population, Franklin County is now Ohio's No. 1 county, a slot that had long been held by Cuyahoga, the Census reports.

THE ENQUIRER

Kasich on Cincinnati nightclub shooting: 'Where is it safe to go?'

When Gov. John Kasich thinks about the shooting in Cincinnati, he worries about his 17-year-old daughters' safety: "You begin to wonder, where is it safe to go?"

THE BLADE

OHIO CONSIDERS JOINING CALL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Hoping to galvanize the frustration seen in last year's election, an effort is under way to recruit Ohio to support a constitutional convention to limit the power of Congress to rack up debt and raise taxes while also seeking to limit members' stays in Washington.

OHIO OFFICIAL WARNS OF SCAMS TIED TO TAX SEASON

The Ohio Attorney General's Office is warning residents about tax-related scams as the annual filing deadline approaches.

EDITORIAL: THREE FEET OF SAFETY

Yes, bikes are slower and cars have to pass them. But they need to pass them safely.

From: Springhetti, Blake

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:18 AM

To: House All

Subject: Reminder: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of

Dental, Vision, and Life

Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay

Healthcare Premiums.pdf

Reminder: The deadline to co-sponsor is tomorrow at 5pm



Representative Derek Merrin 47th District MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and

Life

Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance — while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vison, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at <u>Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov</u> or at (614) 466-1731 by Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.

Sincerely,



Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
House District 47
Office (614) 466-1731
Derek Merrin@ohiohouse.gov
77 S, High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215



Representative Derek Merrin 47th District MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Derek Merrin

DATE:

March 20, 2017

RE:

Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life

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Sincerely,



Derek Merrin Ohio House of Representatives House District 47 Office (614) 456-1731 Derek Merrin@ohiohouse.gov 77 S. High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 From: report@hannah.com

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:51 PM

To: DL Hannah

Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- Conference Committee Approves Transportation Budget with 4-2 Vote
- Poll Finds 2016 Ideological Divisions Remain among Ohio Voters
- Kasich Addresses AHCA Withdrawal on CNN Sunday, Calls Divisiveness 'Pathetic'
- Controlling Board Approves Agenda with Rare Lack of Holds from Legislators
- JCARR Hears Rules Changes on Shaving, Hunting, Case Management, Casinos
- Shale Gas Production Ends Three-Year Climb
- Kasich Administration Announces \$4.3 million in New Tax Credits
- OSU Touts New Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus
- Stateline: Lawmakers Look to Curb Foreign Influence in State Elections
- State Government Roundup: ECOT
- Campaign Corner: Ohio GOP
- Ohio Digest: Buckeye Institute
- Campus Chronicle: Lanzinger Papers
- Judicial Actions: Commercial Dockets
- Legislative Schedule Changes

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From: John VanDoorn

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:49 PM

To: Rep93; Rep71; Rep06; Rep89; Rep29; Rep41; Rep04; Rep21; Rep84; Rep19; Rep66; Rep76; Rep62; Rep81; Rep07; Rep73; Rep88; Rep02; Rep92; Rep48; Rep83; Rep95; Rep96; Rep13; Rep17; Rep64; Rep99; Rep56; Rep33; Rep60; Rep34

CC: Snider, Grace; Stanislaw, Steven; Wilson, Pam Subject: HB 28 - oppose "scorecard" amendment

The Honorable Ryan Smith Chair, House Finance Committee Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Cera and committee members,

We understand that your committee may vote tomorrow on HB 28, the Industrial Commission budget bill. The Ohio Association for Justice supports the IC budget bill.

But we oppose and respectfully urge you to vote "NO" on an amendment that may be offered to the bill.

The amendment we oppose would require the IC to maintain a "scorecard" with statistics on hearing officers' decisions – the data would focus on whether the decisions are proemployer or pro-injured worker.

The amendment is bad public policy that will damage the process of deciding workers' comp claims.

Injects politics into hearing process

Hearing officers have a quasi-judicial function — they are attorneys whose job is to apply the law to the specific facts of the case that is presented to them. As IC Chairman Bainbridge testified, he is proud that hearing officer decisions rarely get overturned by the courts because the officers have properly applied the law. That is their job — to impartially apply the law. This proposal would divert their focus to a "scorecard.= 4

Hearing officers already evaluated

The Commission already evaluates hearing officers. Their evaluations are based on whether the hearing officer properly applies the law to the facts in a specific case.

Scorecard will distort judgment

Evaluating hearing officers based on whether their decisions are pro-IW or pro-employer will distort the hearing officer's judgment. It is human nature that hearing officers, as they

approach the end of a grading period, would want to "even up" their scorecard between pro-IW and pro-employer decisions, regardless of the facts and law. That's not good.

Can't assign most decisions to one side or the other

In many instances it is very difficult to assign a decision as pro-IW or pro-employer. If the case is about how much medical care is needed, is it pro-IW or pro-employer to follow the treating physician's recommendation for care? If the dispute is about how much compensation should be awarded, a 10% allowance or a 6% allowance, and the officer decides for 8%, is that a pro-IW or a pro-employer decision?

What is the desired score?

What constitutes a good grade for a hearing officer? Should their scorecard show that they rule 50-50 for IW and employers? What happens if most of the cases assigned to a particular hearing officer are long-shot appeals by the IW and the law clearly favors employers? Should that hearing officer rule for the IW some of the time, just to "even up" their scorecard?

Is the intent to fire hearing officers who decide for injured workers?

What is the purpose of this scorecard? To get rid of hearing officers who are too pro-IW or too pro-employer? That is how hearing officers will perceive it, and their decisions will be influenced by that perception.

It has no support

No group supports this proposal, not the Industrial Commission, not the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, not NFIB-Ohio, not the Ohio Chamber, not the claimants' counsel at OAJ, and not labor.

Not same as administrative law judges

It is like comparing apples to oranges to say that administrative law judges for social security, where statistics on decisions are kept, are the same as IC hearing officers. Social security is not an adversarial process; no one objects to a claim for social security benefits. Judges are asked simply to apply the law and come to a conclusion on whether a person's condition qualifies for benefits. Conversely, workers' compensation in Ohio can be very adversarial. This scorecard is a misguided attempt to keep track of how often a hearing officer choses one side over the other.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and would be glad to discuss this matter more fully.

John Van Doorn
Ohio Association for Justice

614-341-6800 jvandoorn@OAJustice.org www.OAJustice.org

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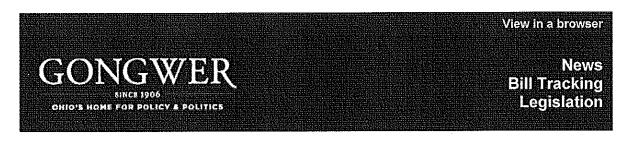
From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service

[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 2:22 PM

To: Standard Subscriber misc html@gongwer-oh.com

Subject: House Floor Report



HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

PASSED

HB 44

HB 84

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.)

To designate May 24 as First Responders' Appreciation Day. 97-0

. 00.110.01240 (E.1.245) (A.1.146.150)

MONTH DESIGNATION (Arndt, S., Patton, T.)

To designate June as "Ohio Goes Boating Month." 97-0

HB 103

FISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (Reineke, B.)

94-1 (Ramos)

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

HB 26

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.)

To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

81-16

REFERRED

Civil Justice

HB 147

HUMANE SOCIETIES (Hambley, S.)

To make changes to humane society law and to make humane society agents subject to bribery law.

Criminal Justice

HB 137

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.)

To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect.

HB 141

INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER (Dever, J., Wiggam, S.)

To provide that causing or contributing to the death of another person as a result of the offender's sale, distribution, dispensation, or administration of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog is a violation of the offense of involuntary manslaughter and to make this offense a strict liability offense.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 138

WAGE DISCRIMINATION (Smith, K., Boyd, J.)

To require the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to establish a system for individuals to make anonymous complaints regarding employers discriminating in the payment of wages.

Education & Career Readiness

HB 154

COMMERCIAL DRIVER STUDENTS (Smith, R., Manning, N.)

To establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid program and to make an appropriation.

Energy & Natural Resources

SB 2

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS (Hite, C.)

To revise specified laws relating to environmental protection.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HB 142

CONCEALED WEAPONS (Wiggam, S.)

To eliminate the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.

HB 151

FIREARMS DEALERS (Patmon, B.)

To prohibit a transfer of a firearm from a person who is not a federally licensed firearms dealer to a person who is not a federally licensed firearms dealer unless it is done through a federally licensed firearms dealer, through a state or local law enforcement agency, or pursuant to a specified exception; to require that background checks be

conducted when a firearm is transferred through a federally licensed firearms dealer or a state or local law enforcement agency; and to provide for recordkeeping with respect to information obtained pursuant to such a background check.

HB 152

HUNTING LICENSES (Patmon, B.)

To require an applicant for a hunting license to specify whether the applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony and to require the license to specify "firearm restricted" if an applicant has so indicated.

HB 153

IMITATION FIREARMS (Patmon, B.)

To generally ban the manufacture, sale, alteration, and public display of imitation firearms and the disguising of a firearm to make it resemble an imitation firearm

Finance

HB 148

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS (Patmon, B.)

Government Accountability & Oversight

SB 44

CAMPAIGN FINANCE (LaRose, F.)

To allow certain campaign committees and other entities to file campaign finance statements electronically and to require the Secretary of State to make the information in those electronic statements available online.

HB 132

FANTASY CONTESTS (Dever, J., McColley, R.)
To grant the Ohio Casino Control Commission the

authority to regulate fantasy contests and to exempt fantasy contests from the gambling laws.

HB 144

WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (Green, D., Rogers, J.)

To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

HB 145

CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)

To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency.

Health

SB 57

AWARENESS DAY (Kunze, S.)

To designate the seventeenth day of May as "Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day."

HB 131

PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

HB 149

ABORTION (Patmon, B., Conditt, M.)

To expand the crime of abortion trafficking and to increase the penalty.

Public Utilities

HB 133

DISASTER WORK (Ryan, S.)

To create the Disaster Relief Act to exempt out-ofstate disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster.

HB 143

ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.)

To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for kilowatt-hour tax purposes.

State & Local Government

HB 134

SCHOOL GRANTS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.)

To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

HB 135

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.)

To designate June 12th as "Superman Day."

HB 139

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (Perales, R., Keller, C.)

To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation.

HB 146

DEATH CERTIFICATES (Householder, L.)

To allow a coroner to change the cause, manner, and mode of death in a filed death certificate only after a hearing in the court of common pleas.

Transportation & Public Safety

HB 136

ROAD NAMING (Arndt, S.)

To designate a portion of State Route 61 in Erie County as the "SGT David Sexton Memorial Highway" and a portion of Benton-Carroll Road in Ottawa County as "SGT Glen Millinger Memorial Highway."

HB 140

ROAD NAMING (Green, D.)

To designate a portion of State Route 32 in Brown and Highland Counties as the "Army Specialist Danny Raymond King Memorial Highway."

HB 150

LICENSE PLATE (Patmon, B.)

To create a special license plate for hearingimpaired individuals.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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From: Zielinski, Justin

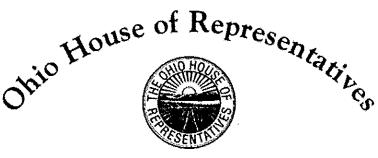
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:06 PM

To: House_All

Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Railroad Crossing Laws Pertaining to Motorist's

Responsibilities

Attachments: On-Track Equipment Co-Sponsor Request.pdf



MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representatives Kirk Schuring and Michele Lepore-Hagan

DATE:

March 29, 2017

RE:

Railroad Crossing Laws Pertaining to Motorist's Responsibilities

Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan and I will soon be introducing legislation that would update Ohio Revised Codes 4511.61-4511.64 to include "other on-track equipment" to improve safety at Ohio's railroad crossings. Other on-track equipment are train-like maintenance machines and can impose a high risk to motorists at railroad crossings.

Railroad and safety awareness has been of great public interest for decades. With technological advancements in our transportation sector, our laws should reflect these ongoing developments. These changes have been included in regional states like Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin as well as Massachusetts, Montana, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming. All interested parties from then railroad industries support this legislation.

The bill simply includes other on-track equipment to a motorists' responsibilities when approaching a crossing. In other words, when other on-track equipment is approaching a railroad crossing, the motorist must abide to the same laws that apply to trains, when gates are down or a flagman/stop sign is signaled. The issue is on-track maintenance equipment has evolved into "train-like" machines that present the same dangers of a train engine and train with cars of not being able to stop on a dime.

This revision of the statutes is supported by rail labor and railroad contractors. An easy fix to this public safety issue would be inserting "or other on-track equipment" into current law anywhere

it says "when a train is approaching". There is not an increased expenditure associated with this legislation as it relates to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

If you would like to join as a co-sponsor to this bill, please contact Legislative Aides Justin Zielinski at <u>Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov</u> or Jordan Wolfe, at 614-466-9435 or <u>Jordan.Wolfe@ohiohouse.gov</u>. The deadline for co-sponsoring this legislation is

Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.



MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representatives Kirk Schuring and Michele Lepore-Hagan

DATE:

March 29, 2017

RE:

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Thank you for your consideration.

From: NCSL Legislative Summit

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 10:08 AM

To: Price, Ciara

Subject: In-depth sessions on health care, higher ed, and the changing nature of jobs



The NCSL Legislative Summit features deep dive sessions that explore today's challenging issues in an interactive format. Share ideas, hear from other states, and take home a plan for action.



Disruptive Innovation in Higher Education What You'll Learn:

- · New types of colleges.
- Different ways to teach that produce better student results.
- · New finance models and ideas to slow down tuition increases.



Beyond the Horizon: U.S. Economic Outlook What You'll Learn:

- What works to promote growth during a recovery.
- Overcoming challenges in taxation and volatile energy prices.
- Applying an economic forecasting model used by banks to help your state prepare.



The Changing Nature of Jobs: Is Our Workforce Prepared? What You'll Learn:

- Different measures of unemployment and how much "slack" is in the labor market (hint: it's significant).
- What regions and occupations are facing mismatches in terms of supply and demand of workers.
- How companies and educators are creating a pipeline of applicants.



Fixing Health Care: What's Next? What You'll Learn:

- The latest developments from Washington, D.C., and what they mean.
- What new responsibilities and opportunities states have to improve health systems.
- How states have responded: what's working and what's not.



Police Community Relations What You'll Learn:

- How efforts by lawmakers, community leaders and police can promote the unbiased administration of justice.
- Ideas to bolster transparency and accountability between communities and the police force.
- Analyzing data from police interactions to shape better policy.

Explore the complete list and register by June 1 to save with early bird rates.

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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Ohio House Republican Communications

Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 7:59 AM

Subject: GOP Week in Review 3/27/17 - 4/2/17



GOP Week in Review

3/27/17 - 4/2/17

Columbus Dispatch: Ohio House passes bill to weaken clean-energy mandates

"In a world where it is extremely easy to go green, mandates are not necessary," said Rep. Louis Blessing, R-Cincinnati, the lead sponsor. ... One of the key players in the debate, Bill Seitz, R-Cincinnati, is now in the House after having served in the Senate.

Toledo Blade: Ohio House bill retreats from green energy edict

The House voted 65-30 to pass House Bill 114, which would replace state-mandated thresholds with goals that would have no penalties attached for noncompliance. "It's already happening," Rep. Bill Seitz (R., Cincinnati) said as he argued that electric utilities are moving toward renewables anyway.

Associated Press: Ohio may make it harder for youths to buy cough, cold medicine House Bill 73, sponsored by state Reps. Jeff Rezabek, R-Clayton, and Kyle Koehler, R-Springfield, would require stores to check identification before selling such products. Ohio is one of several states where children and teenagers have been known to consume cough syrup at far greater rates than the recommended dosage, according to state legislators.

Norwalk Reflector: Ohio lawmakers still seek fix for unemployment compensation fund

"The goal is to restore solvency with equal amounts from business and labor," said Rep. Kirk Schuring, R-Canton. Schuring and Sen. Bob Peterson, R-Sabina, are leading a 10-member group working toward a plan to submit to the General Assembly for approval.

Fostoria Review Times: Fiscal emergency bill passes House

"This bill is about saving our local governments money and allowing them to return to effective and efficient governance sooner rather than later," Reineke said in the news release.

Norwalk Reflector: Sandusky State Theatre preps for Gov. Kasich

Theater officials then started the ball rolling by speaking to Sen. Randy Gardner (R-District 2) and state Rep. Steve Arndt (R-District 89). "Sen. Gardner and Rep. Arndt were great advocates for the city," Parthemore said. "We wanted to showcase the city of Sandusky."

Athens Post: Rep. Edwards' new bill would limit opioid prescriptions

Weidle's father, along with State Sen. Bob Hackett, R-London, State Sen. Jay Hottinger, R-Newark, State Rep. Larry Householder, R-Glenford, and Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted all spoke in support of the bill at the press conference Wednesday. "I'm going to talk about why we need (the bill) and get community input," Edwards said. "I'm going to be in my district because it's where I represent, but we'll be traveling around the state. ... We felt we needed to go out and get the word out."

Athens Post: Locals commend Jay Edwards for proposed opioid bill

Public officials praised State Rep. Jay Edwards, R-Nelsonville, at a meeting on Friday morning for his new bill, which is designed to combat and treat Ohio's opioid epidemic.

Columbus Dispatch: Letter to the editor from Rep. Ryan Smith: State must attack opioid crisis

The drug epidemic is an existential threat to our state. Opioid abuse has infiltrated our communities and has driven them to extreme lengths to combat this problem. Shockingly, several Ohio communities have been forced to rent mobile units to assist their local morgues with overpopulation issues. These disturbing reports reinforce my conviction that we must act now to fight this insidious threat to the people of Ohio.

The Times Leader: Barns Part of Ohio's History

Rep. Anne Gonzales, R-Westerville, who was involved in bringing the bill to the House, said the idea was brought to her from the Westerville City Schools' gifted education program. The purpose of the bill was to emphasize the importance the barn holds in Ohio state history.

Columbus Dispatch: Proposed law would make fantasy sports a reality in Ohio

Reps. Jonathan Dever, R-Madeira, and Robert McColley, R-Napoleon, sponsors of House Bill 132, say it would provide consumer protection for Ohioans who participate in fantasy sports and regulations so "the industry operates in a transparent and accountable manner."

Van Wert Independent: Bill provides prevailing wage law choices

"Representative Roegner and I introduced this bill because we believe in free and open competitive markets; this bill does not eliminate prevailing wage, but rather makes it

permissive," said Rep. Riedel. ... "This common-sense piece of legislation restores local control by freeing local governments from the shackles of a state mandated wage. House Bill 163 will provide them the flexibility they need to get the greatest return for every tax dollar," said Rep. Roegner.

Dayton Daily News: Region tries again for state money for startups

"Unfortunately we lost this funding two years ago. I'm hopeful we can get this funding back so that we can get our startup community these necessary dollars," State Rep. Niraj Antani, R-Miamisburg, said Tuesday.

WCMH: Meet Ohio's youngest lawmaker

Running on a young republican platform he is one of just three lawmakers out of 132 that are under 29-years-old. "I am the first elected official sworn in, in the country that was born in the 1990s," Antani said.

<u>Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio colleges would have to provide detailed information under proposed 'Informed student document act'</u>

"The "informed student document" bill, sponsored by Ohio Reps. Christina Hagan, an Alliance Republican, and Robert McColley, a Napoleon Republican, was introduced in the Ohio House on March 7. It is in the education and career readiness committee.

Columbus Dispatch: State panel offers options for students to graduate despite test scores

"Work experience and a 2.5 grade-point average would get them half the (required points). If kids get minimum scores on exams, they don't have to do much else," said Rep. Andrew Brenner, a Republican from Powell.

Knox Pages: Rep. Carfagna co-sponsors bill to implement Computer Science for students K-12

In a statement Carfagna said, "We will soon introduce legislation that will allow school districts to implement computer science (CS) in grades K-12. Over the past few years, there has been a national movement and conversation around states implementing K-12 CS standards."

WVXU: Bill requires school board develop computer science standards, but won't mandate schools to use them

The bill from Reps. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) and Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) would order the state school board to work with teachers, businesses and technology professionals to develop and adopt computer science standards by July 2018, but Carfagna says they won't be requirements. "This is where I want to be absolutely clear. This is not a mandate."

AARP Ohio: New Law Aims to Help Caregivers

"Given that these individuals are often serving as caregivers to enable their loved ones to remain at home in the face of complex medical conditions, trips to the hospital are inevitable and terrifying," LaTourette said.

WDTN: Local fire chief honored for service in Afghanistan

Rep. Kyle Koehler of Springfield honored Bethel Township Fire Chief Jacob King for earning a U.S. Army Joint Civilian Commendation Medal during the Ohio House session.

Lima News: Multibillion-dollar transportation budget signed into law

"House Bill 26 administers a substantial investment in Ohio's infrastructure and local communities' needs while defending the tax dollars of our citizens," McColley, a bill sponsor and chair of the Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, said earlier this week. "The bill provides innovative solutions for many of our state's transportation and economic needs and I feel that we are sending a good final product to Gov. Kasich."

Cleveland Jewish News: OJC reception honors state officials

State Sen. Sandra Williams, D-Cleveland, state Rep. Keith Faber, R-Celina, and state Rep. Fred Strahorn, D-Dayton, display their awards with Ohio Jewish Communities Executive Director Howie Beigelman at the OJC Legislative Reception March 14 in Columbus.

The Times-Gazette: Sacrifice and worth

"People often ask me if we should do this type of thing, and do we have enough highways to remember everyone?" Rosenberger said. "My answer is that I don't think there's ever enough we can say to honor the people who have fought and died to protect our freedoms. ... I know (Neil) is looking down and watching this ... and he will think and know what his service meant to this country."

Gallipolis Daily Tribune: Smith honored as champion for Ohio libraries

"It was an honor to receive the Carnegie Award from the Ohio Library Council and to spend some time with Debbie Saunders from the Gallia County Library, whose innovative programs are providing services like mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and educational opportunities to citizens young and old in Southeast Ohio," said Smith.

Marietta Times: Guest column from Rep. Andy Thompson: Small reforms help in the fight against drug abuse

One of the most pressing issues that state is dealing with — both at the community and government level — is the outbreak of drug abuse and addiction. Considering every component of this issue, my fellow members and I in the Ohio House are enacting legislation to take on Ohio's drug epidemic, from cracking down on drug dealers and traffickers to enabling better access to rehabilitative care for the drug-addicted.

Associated Press: Proposed bill designed to protect Ohioans with disabilities

"We're trying to close the communication gap between people who voluntarily go through this initiative with a communication disability and law enforcement officers," said Rep. Scott Wiggam, a Wooster Republican co-sponsoring the bill.

Salem News: Ginter backs bill to soften energy rules

"I am glad to be a cosponsor of this very important piece of legislation that will remove energy mandates and promote free markets in Ohio's energy sector. A recent study by the Ohio Business Roundtable said that the energy mandates do not survive a cost-benefit analysis and will ultimately result in higher utility bills being passed on to consumers. This maintains the future goals of energy efficiency without job-killing mandates," Ginter said.

From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 10:44 AM

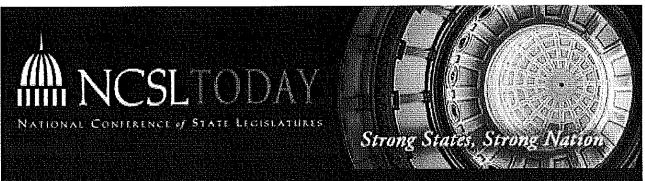
To: Price, Ciara

Subject: Job growth loses steam as U.S. adds 98,000 in March

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TOP NEWS April 7, 2017

Job growth loses steam as U.S. adds 98,000 in March

The New York Times

Job growth turned in a disappointing showing in March, according to data released Friday by the Labor Department. It is the latest official snapshot of the state of the American economy.

Maryland becomes first state to mitigate any Planned Parenthood cuts

The Hill

Maryland on Thursday became the first state to enact a law that will reimburse Planned Parenthood for its services if there are any federal cuts to the organization.

Iowa lawmakers promise to protect creditfor poor families in tax reform efforts

The Des Moines Register

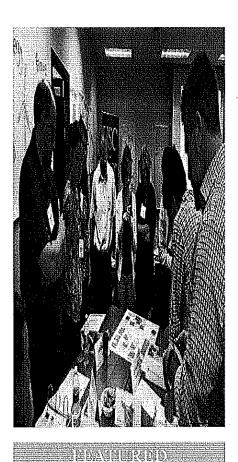
lowa lawmakers promised to protect a popular tax credit benefiting more than 220,000 low-income working families in their effort to reform the tax code.

Scientists, lawmakers seek millions to study Texas earthquake data

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Researchers studying what makes the earth move below our feet are seeking \$3.4 million from Texas lawmakers to continue operating a network of seismographs installed over the past two years.

Governor signs Arizona's expansion of



Applications open for Legislative Staff Management Institute

The Legislative Staff Management Institute (LSMI) provides legislative staff with the opportunity to develop and enhance their management and leadership skills.

NEW @ NCSL

school voucher program

The Arizona Republic

Late Thursday night, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey signed into law an expansion of the state's Empowerment Scholarship Account program, his spokesman said, which will allow any student to use taxpayer dollars to pay private-school tuition or for other educational expenses.

NCSL resources on school vouchers.

Getting the mentally ill out of jails

Stateline

Jailing mentally ill people costs more and increases the likelihood they will be back. States and localities increasingly are working to get them treatment instead.

Registration open for NCSL's Legislative Summit in Boston

State earned income credit

Future of elections technology conference June 14-16

PHOG

7th Circuit rules law protects LGBT people from workplace bias

The Seventh Circuit has become the first federal circuit court of appeals to rule that employees may bring sexual orientation discrimination claims under Title VII. This case directly affects state and local governments in their capacity as employers in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.



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From: Wolfe, Jordan

Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 10:51 AM

To: House All

Subject: Fw: Co-Sponsor Request: Railroad Crossing Laws Pertaining to Motorist's

Responsibilities **

Attachments: On-Track Equipment Co-Sponsor Request.pdf

DEADLINE IS EXTENDED TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12TH

From: Zielinski, Justin

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:06 AM

To: House All

Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Railroad Crossing Laws Pertaining to Motorist's

Responsibilities



MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representatives Kirk Schuring and Michele Lepore-Hagan

DATE:

March 29, 2017

RE:

Railroad Crossing Laws Pertaining to Motorist's Responsibilities

Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan and I will soon be introducing legislation that would update Ohio Revised Codes 4511.61-4511.64 to include "other on-track equipment" to improve safety at Ohio's railroad crossings. Other on-track equipment are train-like maintenance machines and can impose a high risk to motorists at railroad crossings.

Railroad and safety awareness has been of great public interest for decades. With technological advancements in our transportation sector, our laws should reflect these ongoing developments. These changes have been included in regional states like Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin as well as Massachusetts, Montana, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming. All interested parties from then railroad industries support this legislation.

The bill simply includes other on-track equipment to a motorists' responsibilities when approaching a crossing. In other words, when other on-track equipment is approaching a railroad crossing, the motorist must abide to the same laws that apply to trains, when gates are down or a flagman/stop sign is signaled. The issue is on-track maintenance equipment has evolved into "train-like" machines that present the same dangers of a train engine and train with cars of not being able to stop on a dime.

This revision of the statutes is supported by rail labor and railroad contractors. An easy fix to this public safety issue would be inserting "or other on-track equipment" into current law anywhere it says "when a train is approaching". There is not an increased expenditure associated with this legislation as it relates to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

If you would like to join as a co-sponsor to this bill, please contact Legislative Aides Justin Zielinski at <u>Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov</u> or Jordan Wolfe, at 614-466-9435 or Jordan.Wolfe@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline for co-sponsoring this legislation is

Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.



MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representatives Kirk Schuring and Michele Lepore-Hagan

DATE:

March 29, 2017

RE:

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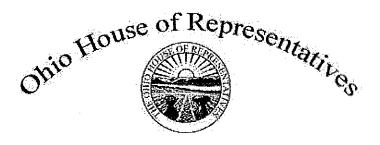
From: Rosenberger, Cliff

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:33 AM

To: Rosenberger, Cliff

Subject: MEMO: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

Attachments: ALECSpringTaskForce.pdf



Cliff Rosenberger Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

Memorandum

To:

All House Republican Members

From:

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger

Date:

April 11, 2017

Re:

2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

As many of you already know, the American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

On May 5, 2017, ALEC will be hosting their Spring Task Force Summit, located in Charlotte, North Carolina. This one-day summit will give participants the opportunity to collaborate with legislative leaders from across the country on some of the following issues:

Civil Justice

- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

I can personally attest to the benefit of working with leaders from across our great country to find solutions to common issues. If you are interested in joining ALEC and participating in the 2017 Spring Task Force Summit, I encourage you to visit their website at https://www.alec.org/.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yaple in my office at Tyler-Yaple@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-7959.



Cliff Rosenberger Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

Memorandum

To: From: All House Republican Members

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger

Date:

April 11, 2017

Re:

2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yaple in my office at Tyler. Yaple@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-7959.

From: Alise Garcia

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:35 AM

To: Rep76

Subject: The latest health & human services resources from NCSL

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Health and Human Services In R

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

Archived Webinar | Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a perennial issue for state lawmakers. Legislators are working with their colleagues in state government as well as other stakeholders to combat labor and sex trafficking while providing services to survivors. An <u>archived NCSL</u> <u>webinar</u> hosted last month highlights the legal and legislative perspectives behind innovative state policies.

State Newborn Health Screening Policies

State public health programs screen an estimated 4 million infants a year for genetic and metabolic disorders. Newborn screenings are an essential part of the early detection and intervention of certain diseases and conditions which can prevent or slow the progression of physical and cognitive disabilities. This new LegisBrief details how states make decisions around what screenings to include, how to test and how to finance the testing.

Health Impact Assessments

Health can be affected by underlying factors related to things like transportation,

NCSL's Health Page.

NCSL maintains hundreds of topical health pages, from A to Z. Check out our resources on the following major topics:

- Cost and Quality
- <u>Diseases and</u>
 Conditions
- <u>Federal Health</u> <u>Issues</u>
- Health Insurance
- Medicaid and
 CHIP
- New & Emerging
 Health Issues

housing, education and the environment. Health impact assessments (HIAs) are tools to help determine the potential effects of proposed policies on people's health, and to inform considerations of health during decision-making. HIAs take health into account in policies across a variety of sectors, and can propose recommendations to minimize health risks or negative effects and capitalize on health benefits. NCSL's new postcard and webpage provide an overview of the HIA process and examples of states that have incorporated HIAs into policy.

Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients

At least 15 states have passed legislation regarding drug testing or screening for public assistance applicants or recipients. Some apply to all applicants; other laws specify that there must be a reason to believe the person is engaging in illegal drug activity or has a substance use disorder; others require a specific screening process. NCSL's <u>webpage</u> has tracked drug testing for welfare recipients since 2011.

Child Support Digest, Vol. 5, No. 1

This edition of NCSL's <u>Quarterly Child Support Newsletter</u> features information about the new federal rule, military parent custody and visitation, procedural justice and child support grants, domestic violence and child support and fatherhood programs, as well as news from across the country.

States Lead and the Department of Health and Human Services Reinforces Waivers for Insurance Innovation (This header is awkward, and grammatically incorrect. I think I would just go with: Waivers for Health Insurance Innovation

As of April 1, 2017, at least 11 states have enacted legislation to kick-start the "1332 waiver" application process, an option created in the Affordable Care Act for states to seek more flexibility in implementing the ACA. The content and proposed state changes vary widely, from restrictions to minor fixes, to substantial redirection, as detailed on NCSL's webpage. For example, Ohio's waive law calls for requesting waivers of the employer and individual mandates, while Kentucky's act requires approval by the legislature for any state plan under the waiver. HHS Secretary Tom Price and the U.S. Treasury Department issued a new letter encouraging states to use Section 1332 waivers "... in supporting healthy state health insurance markets." Price noted that "States need the flexibility to develop

- Pharmaceuticals
- <u>Population</u> <u>Groups</u>
- Providers and Facilities
- Public Health and Prevention

For more information about these and other issues, email the <u>Health Program</u>. **NCSL's <u>Human</u> Services page**. Check out our resources on the following major topics:

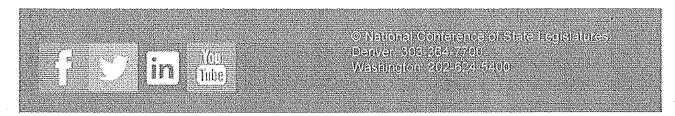
- Child Support and Family Law
- Child Welfare
- Early Care and Education
- <u>Federal Human</u> <u>Services Issues</u>
- Hunger and Nutrition
- Same Sex
 Marriage
- Welfare and Poverty

For more information about these and other issues, email the <u>Human Services</u> Program.

innovative health care models that will improve patient access to care, increase affordability and choices offered, lower premiums, and improve market stability."

States Aiming Higher: New Health Systems Scorecard-March 27 Blog

The Commonwealth Fund released its 2017 edition of "Aiming Higher: Results from the Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance." The report follows up on the Fund's previous scorecards that analyze state performance and progress across 44 indicators in five broadly defined categories, including: Access and Affordability, Avoidable Hospital Use and Costs, Equity, Healthy Lives, and Prevention and Treatment. All states improved in at least one category over the course of 2013-2015. Kentucky's health care system improved in 21 indicators—the most of any state, followed closely by Oklahoma. See NCSL's recent blog to learn more about your state's data.



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7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

kylenatorp

From:

kylenatorp@natorp.com

Sent:

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 10:41 AM

To:

rep76@ohiohouse.gov

Subject:

Landscape Design Tax

First Name : Kyle

variable and the second second

Last Name : Natorp

Address: 6666 Irwin Simpson Road

City: Mason

State : OH

Zip: 45040

Phone: 513.515.3956

Email: kylenatorp@natorp.com

Subject:

Landscape Design Tax

Message :

As a Landscape business owner I am writing to encourage you to oppose the landscape design tax as proposed in the as introduced version of HB 49. There are many reasons I oppose this tax. I believer the anticipated revenue from this tax will be minimal and is not justified by the burden the tax would place on landscape designers, most of whom are small businesses; Many landscapers do not charge separately for design work including our company. We are already required to collect sales tax on landscape labor for construction and installation which, incidentally, is not required of builders. The tax may discourage companies from charging for design work which is ill-advised. Landscape design is not a luxury, it is vital, and it prevents those wishing to change their landscapes from making costly mistakes. Building a landscape project without a design is like building a house without a blueprint.

Please consider these points when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Wm. Kyle Natorp CEO Natorp's Inc. From: MARK TOTMAN

a Santan German Santan Seesa a santan da anda ya santan santan santan santan santan santan santan santan santa

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 11:10 PM

To: Price, Ciara

Subject: Re: Luncheon Next Wednesday

Ciara,

Yes the luncheon is 11:30AM at Benesch's office on the 26th floor of the Huntington Bldg. House invitees are Reps LaTourette, Carfagna, Edwards and Stein. The luncheon is very laid back and more of a meet and greet to allow House members to get to know our coalition of contractor associations and labor groups. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday.

Thank you,

Mark

On Apr 18, 2017, at 1:48 PM, Ciara.Price@ohiohouse.gov wrote:

Hi Mark

Do you have any details you could send my way about the luncheon scheduled for next Wednesday at 11:30 am?
Thank you!

Ciara Price

Legislative Aide
State Representative Sarah LaTourette
House District 76
77 South High Street, 14th Floor | Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office: (614)644-5088 | Cell: (614)395-2158
Ciara.price@ohiohouse.gov